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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

It seems now, in spite of various rumours to the contrary, that the Ministerial changes consequent on the death of Lord Palmerston will not be very important. The Cabinet Council, which was to have been held on Thursday, has been postponed until Saturday, and the new arrangements will probably not be made known before Monday. It is thought certain, however, that Earl Russell will be succeeded at the Foreign Office by Lord Clarendon. Lord Clarendon is known to be a warm partisan of the French alliance and a personal friend of the French Emperor.

M. de Bismarck has announced his return from Biarritz in his own peculiar manner. In a characteristically violent despatch to the Senate of the "free city" of Frankfort (as it is ironically called), the Prussian Minister accuses that august body of giving its countenance to "senseless schemes," and declares that he will "no longer tolerate its indulgence to revolutionary tendencies." He concludes by threatening to "intervene," in case the Senate should so far forget itself again as to allow meetings to be held for the purpose of criticising the policy of Austria and Prussia. The despatch

is a document of considerable historical importance. It marks the utter helplessness of the German Confederation, which has often been laughed at as a Power difficult to move, and which now turns out not to be a Power at all. M. de Bismarck treats the capital of this once important league as though it were a part of Prussia, and addresses its Senate as though it were composed of Prussian functionaries. Prussia has long claimed to exercise influence in Germany, but this is the first time that she has taken upon herself to dictate to the governing body of an independent German city. The minor States of Germany must all, sooner or later, be swallowed up by Prussia—which would matter very little to us, were it not for the fact that every increase of Prussian territory will be made a pretext for fresh annexations on the part of France. A cry of alarm has already been raised in Belgium, and it is not altogether unreasonable to suppose that an understanding of some kind may have been come to between the French Emperor and the great breaker of treaties who recently visited him at Biarritz. Otherwise, if the intrigues of the Prussian Minister were already at an end, the aggrandisement of Prussia would, in one respect, be a

gain to Europe. The Russians are complaining loudly that the new position acquired by Prussia in the Baltic is a menace to them, and will have the effect of checking their influence. If so, so much the better. In any case, Prussia is not likely to show herself the enemy of England. The solution given by M. de Bismarck to the Schleswig-Holstein question is quite in conformity with English interests, though England, from a sense of fairness, has consistently opposed it.

The report of a great disaster having happened to the Russians in Central Asia turns out, fortunately, to be untrue. Seen from the West, Russia is, in some respects, a semi-barbarous country, or nearly so; viewed from the East, she is the representative of European civilisation. Her rule in Central Asia may be somewhat harsh—it ought to be firm, for the savages of those regions need restraint. The Russians whenever they advance in an easterly direction establish order, make roads, introduce commerce, and enable and even compel the inhabitants to cultivate the arts of peace. Indeed, in the East the spread of Russian power is as beneficial as in the West it is injurious. In Central Asia Russia can build up, in Poland she can only destroy. Thus, at the



REMOVAL OF LORD PALMERSTON'S REMAINS FROM BROCKET HALL

present moment, we find Russia employing all her energy to root out civilisation in that part of Poland which is not included in the "kingdom" but is incorporated with the Russian empire. Not only is the Russian tongue to be used by Poles in all official communications, Russian is also made the language of instruction in the schools and the language of religion in the churches. The Emperor Nicholas ordered that Russian should be taught to all his Polish subjects; but it is only during the present reign and since the last insurrection that the Polish people have been commanded to pray, and the Polish priests to preach, in Russian. Some Russian writers think the Government has, at last, gone too far; and that one effect of allowing Roman Catholic books to be circulated, and Roman Catholic sermons to be preached, in the Russian language, will be to convert a great many Russians to the Roman Catholic religion. Impossible as that result may seem, it has hitherto been much feared by the Government, which, for that reason, has always positively forbidden the printing of Roman Catholic rituals and books of devotion in Russian. Formerly a Polish Catholic priest would have been punished for delivering his sermon in Russian; now he will not be allowed to deliver it in any other language.

The illness of Prince Couza has caused the revival of an old suggestion, to the effect that Roumania, or Moldo-Wallachia, or the "Danubian Principalities," as the two principalities used to be called during the Crimean War, should be made over to Austria on condition of Austria's ceding Venetia to Italy. The proposition comes, oddly and inappropriately enough, from a party which is in the habit of maintaining that no country ought to be transferred from one Government to another without the consent of its inhabitants. Why, we wonder, is this rule to be observed in the south, but not in the east, of Europe? It might not be a bad thing for Roumania, and it might be a very good thing for Austria, and for all western Europe, if the arrangement in question could be carried out; only the Roumans notoriously object to it, and desire, now more than ever, to form an entirely independent State. The Austrians, too, are very unpopular in the Principalities, where the most disagreeable recollections are preserved of the Austrian occupation at the time of the Crimean War. Russia, moreover, whatever other changes might take place in Europe without causing her to interfere, could not fail to be provoked to war by an attempt on the part of Austria to annex provinces which she herself has so long coveted, and which, once in the hands of a strong Power, would close for ever to Russia the well-known road to Turkey. When the "Eastern question" turns up again—and it is about time, now, for it to reappear—then, if it lead to war, it would be most advantageous to England and France to establish Austria firmly on the Danube, so as to hold Russia definitively in check. But Austria might not like the position herself; and, in any case, it is a position she will never hold, except as the result of a thoroughly-successful war against Russia.

THE LATE LORD PALMERSTON.

REMOVAL OF THE BODY FROM BROCKET HALL.

It having been determined, at the special request of her Majesty, as is generally believed, that the late Premier's remains should be deposited in Westminster Abbey, the body was, on Monday, removed from Brocket Hall, Herts, to Cambridge House, Piccadilly, and was yesterday publicly deposited in its last resting-place in the sacred fane where repose Lord Palmerston's great master in politics, Mr. Canning, and other of England's distinguished sons. The removal of the body from Brocket Hall was managed in a very quiet and unostentatious manner. A plain hearse and a single mourning-coach constituted the whole procession, which left Brocket Hall a little before ten o'clock in the morning, and made the whole journey to London by road. Unpretending, however, as was the display, the country people who met the cortége evidently knew its meaning, for, as it passed, there was a general reverent uncovering, and at the little towns and villages—as Hatfield, Potter's Bar, Barnet, Whetstone, and Finchley—through which the body passed the bells of the churches tolled and the inhabitants showed the utmost respect. Darkness had set in and a thin, misty rain was falling cheerlessly, when the carriage-gates of Cambridge House opened to admit the hearse and its attendant mourning-coach. No one on seeing them approach, even to within a very short distance of the courtyard, would have been naturally led to guess that the first of the two carriages contained the mortal part of so great a man as Viscount Palmerston. It was not, indeed, until those vehicles stopped to turn into the open gateway that the people standing around broke into a murmur, which was directly afterwards hushed. The gates were again closed as soon as the hearse and coach were admitted; and presently the coffin was borne into the hall, where it was received by the Rev. Henry Sullivan, his Lordship's nephew; and the Hon. Evelyn Ashley. A very few persons besides, principally the undertaker's assistants and the upper servants of the household, followed in the procession to the large dining-room, on the level of the entrance-hall. This plainly-furnished apartment, now nearly bare, and quite devoid of all funeral signs, except a black carpet, on which the trestles were placed to hold the coffin, was lighted very dimly, and was so silent that the few words spoken in whispers could be heard from end to end. At the head of the bier was a group of tall, black feathers, with heavy tops, like a dense, dark grove in miniature. The coffin, covered with rich crimson velvet, into which the subdued light softly sank, bore, in the midst of its gilt insignia, a large, plain, massive plate, on which was legibly inscribed: "The Right Hon. Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston, K.G., G.C.B. Born, October 20th, 1784; died, October 18, 1865." A heavy pall of black velvet, with a broad, white satin border, was draped over the lower half of the coffin, so as to leave the gilt inscription-plate uncovered; and when these few and simple arrangements had been carried out, the persons in the room silently withdrew.

BROCKET HALL.

This fine country mansion, which will now be principally remembered in connection with the loss which the country has so lately sustained, is situated about three miles from Hatfield, on the site of an ancient edifice which belonged to the Brocket family. The building was commenced by Sir Matthew Lamb, and was completed by his son William, afterwards Lord Melbourne, who made great improvements in the park and rendered it one of the most delightful in the kingdom. Mr. Paine, the architect who was employed, also erected the beautiful bridge over the spacious sheet of water which so greatly heightened the effect of the scenery. The park occupies a considerable extent of country, from Brickwall Hill to a distance

of two miles on the Whethamstead-road. It was at this place that George IV., when he was Prince Regent, was entertained with the races got up for his amusement. The ball-room was originally fitted up with great taste, the ceiling being painted by Mortimer and Wheatley, the former of whom contributed the designs and the latter the colouring. The subjects were the four quarters of the day, the four seasons, and the four quarters of the globe; while the principal chandelier was suspended from the beak of an eagle in the centre of the ceiling. The upper end of the room is decorated with family portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The ceilings of the library and dining-room were also painted by Mortimer, and both these and the other principal apartments contain a very fine collection of pictures.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE.

The town residence of the late Premier, who before purchasing this mansion lived in the large and handsome brick-built house on the west side of Hanover-square, is situated at No. 94, Piccadilly, and was formerly Egremont House, then Cholmondeley House, and afterwards the residence of the late Duke of Cambridge. There is nothing very remarkable in this edifice by which to distinguish it from other town houses of the nobility, and, indeed, one or two of the apartments bore evidence of the ceaseless engagements and continual labour of the owner, in the wear which carpets and furniture had received from the deputations and representatives who constantly presented themselves during the sitting of Parliament. The state rooms, however, are elegantly furnished, and some fine paintings adorn the walls. The most singular feature of Cambridge House is the garden, which is, or was, a mere gravelled space, walled round, and scarcely with any attempt at laying out even the forms of beds. Whether any one ever walked in this dull, waste plot of ground or not it is difficult to say; but as seen from the lower windows it was singularly bare and uninviting.

FOREIGN SOVEREIGNS AND THE LATE PREMIER.

The following despatch, in reference to Lord Palmerston's death, has been addressed by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to Baron Baude, Chargé d'Affaires of France in London:—

Monsieur,—The Emperor and his Government could not, without a profound sentiment of regret, witness the disappearance from the political scene of the eminent statesman whose loss England at this moment deplores. His death has profoundly moved public opinion in the country which he served for long years with so much distinction. It will echo loudly wherever the English name is known. For ourselves, Monsieur, we have had in many important circumstances the opportunity of appreciating the high qualities with which Lord Palmerston was endowed, and we shall always love to remember how much he contributed to the establishment of the relations of confidence and friendship which, from the beginning of the Second Empire, have existed between France and England. Lord Palmerston was the first, in the month of December, 1851, to recognise the character of the courageous resolutions which the situation of France inspired in his Majesty. He loyally accepted the consequences, placing himself above the resentments of the past, with a freedom of judgment so much the more honourable that, at the opening of his career, he had been mixed up in the ancient strife; he used his influence to bring to the comprehension of his fellow-citizens the services rendered to the cause of order in Europe by the events which had been accomplished in France. A few years afterwards we found in Lord Palmerston the most decided and certain assistance, when the complications in the East occurred, calling on the two nations to unite their efforts, and led them to contract that alliance not less remarkable by the intimate and loyal agreement of the Cabinets than by the noble emulation of the armies. Nor could we forget the part which belongs to Lord Palmerston in the negotiation of the Treaty of Commerce, concluded five years ago. As First Minister of the Queen he had emphatically approved the idea of consolidating the relations of England with us by giving them for base a stricter solidarity of material interests. He seconded with all his power the inauguration of that liberal system, henceforth consecrated by experience and adopted to-day by the majority of the States of the Continent. These acts belong to the history of the two countries. The name of Lord Palmerston will remain attached to it, and we shall not lose the recollection of the rôle which he played in conjunctures of so great an interest for the relations of France and England. We make it a duty to unite the testimony of our sympathies to the honours which the British nation so justly renders to his memory. I beg of you to be the interpreter to Lord Russell of the sentiments of the Emperor and the Government of his Majesty. You will be good enough at the same time to transmit to the Principal Secretary of State of the Queen a copy of this despatch.

Receive, &c. DROUYN DE LIHYS.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of the French, the King of the Belgians, the King of Italy, and other Continental Sovereigns have sent messages of condolence to the Queen and Lady Palmerston.

THE CONTINENTAL PRESS ON THE DEATH OF LORD PALMERSTON.

The leading Continental journals have all devoted considerable space to memoirs of the late Premier, and to animadversions on his character and career. We extract a few passages from some of the most prominent papers:—

Journal des Débats:—

Entering public life at a very early age, in the beginning of the century, he has never since ceased to take an active part in the affairs of his country. The aim of this long political career, sometimes so brilliant, often contradictory as to the principles and means employed, but immutable in its inspiration, was to serve the interests of England at any price. It is this—without speaking of the remarkable talents of Lord Palmerston—which explains the popularity he enjoyed up to the last moment among his countrymen; and certainly, if anything in the world ever was sincere, it is the unanimous regret expressed by the English press, upon this point a very faithful echo of public opinion. We at least are not singular in considering the policy of Lord Palmerston as having nearly served its time, and as no longer responding to the ideas and wants of the present day; but, in addition to his other merits, the celebrated Minister possessed that of being predominantly English. He was English from his heart by instinct and by intelligence. He loved England passionately; and we ought to add, to the praise of our neighbours, that similar temperaments are not rare amongst us.

Opinion Nationale:—

A grand figure has just left the world's stage. Lord Palmerston is dead. During the sixty years that he has entered into political life he has never ceased to occupy, either in power or in opposition, an important place. A rare mixture of prudence and decision, of suppleness and vigour, has kept him for more than half a century in the foremost rank of British statesmen; he combined, in the highest degree, the qualities and the defects of his country, which loved to recognise in him one of the most finished examples of the English character. Latterly, every rumour, every discussion, ceased around him; it seemed that Great Britain had grown old with her First Minister. His death will probably be the signal for a new classification of parties, and if the foreign policy of England is not likely to be changed, internal questions, and especially electoral reform, are likely to demand a large share of attention. France does not lose a friend in Lord Palmerston. Still, we cannot announce his death without paying a last tribute of respect to the eminent statesman, who, sometimes our ally, sometimes our adversary, will be known in history as one of the accomplished types of an English gentleman and statesman.

La France:—

One of the greatest personages of our age has just disappeared from the political scene. Lord Palmerston is dead. It is impossible to foresee at present the influence which this sad event will have upon the policy of England and the important questions which concern the peoples of our times. He was one of the most perfect and large-minded of political geniuses. He was an administrator and a man of the tribune, a legislator and an orator. He held in his hands all the threads of European diplomacy, and he never let one escape him by chance or without a purpose. . . . The loss which England has sustained is immense. With Lord Palmerston has disappeared the last representative of the political men, the contemporaries of the Republic and the first Empire. In his relations with France, Lord Palmerston appeared to be alternately actuated by sentiments of sympathy and mistrust. His reason urged him towards a cordial understanding; but the impression imbibed in his early political life often made him stand aloof. Hence a see-saw policy, and inconsistent action which frequently seemed unaccountable.

La Presse:—

The old policy of England will be buried in Lord Palmerston's tomb, and the hour of democracy will soon strike in Liberal England. The statesman who would succeed to the heritage of Palmerston must have the courage to become the Robert Peel of universal suffrage.

The Constitutionnel:—

For a statesman, old age, when physical only, is a source of strength, and a prestige. Then, the more the years accumulate, the more youthful remains the popularity. Such was the case with Lord Palmerston. He has grown older and greater, and he has not been driven from his post of Prime Minister by fatigue or want of confidence, but by death. No one thought of reminding him of the song of old Simeon; his eighty-first year was surrounded with respect and reliance, and thus were recognised the services he

had rendered, and those he might yet perform. In presence of his tomb we will only remember the readiness with which the noble Lord in 1851 recognised the new order founded in France under the great name of Napoleon. We will only call to mind the policy which gave birth to the Treaty of Commerce, and to which is due the brotherhood of the soldiers of France and England on the fields of battle of the Crimea and in the extreme East. The popularity which Lord Palmerston enjoyed for sixty years, and the regret with which his death inspires his countrymen, are naturally explained by the consideration that his principal virtue was always love for his country. Whether his ideas happened to be just or not, whether he was timid or adventurous, whether he was right or wrong in his judgment of the allies, adversaries, or rivals of England, he was always guided by his British patriotism. Let us not reproach him for that; but let us rather admire, and at the same time try to imitate him—let us be French, as Lord Palmerston was English.

La Monde, Roman Catholic organ:—

The death of the Queen's Prime Minister is an event. His influence, his experience, and his pliability of mind rendered him a figure worthy to be examined, if not admired. The study of the noble Lord's political life would be a complete history of England during the last thirty years. It is not the most brilliant period of that history. The attitude of the English Government has not always had that firmness which made the reputation of its statesmen at the close of the last or the commencement of the present century. It is, perhaps, necessary to attribute this relative weakness to the reaction consequent upon the immense efforts made by England to overthrow the first empire. There is another phase of Lord Palmerston's personality which deserves still more attentive examination, and which may explain more than one apparently illogical act. Lord Palmerston occupied a very high rank in European Freemasonry. The part played by England in the matter of the Italian annexations, and principally in Sicily and at Naples, is in the remembrance of all. The official reception given to Garibaldi—a reception which the will of the Prime Minister might have prevented—the attitude taken by the Cabinet of St. James's under the influence of its president upon every occasion when there has been question of some undertaking having a political character—these facts and many others prove to demonstrate that official acts must not be the only ones to be regarded with importance by the historian of Lord Palmerston.

Le Temps:—

An orator he rarely rose above the level of an easy and intellectual conversation, stamped with a very happy mixture of acuteness and apparent simplicity as a statesman; if he had often, in the course of his long career, given violent shocks to facts, he never sought to originate ideas; nor was he, properly speaking, a party man. But in the eyes of the English people he had one supreme quality, which alone sufficed to explain his constant popularity—namely, that he represented admirably in his person the type of the English gentleman. His fellow-citizens recognised and loved themselves in him; they appreciated at their full value the practical capacities of "Old Pam," as they called him, his remarkable good sense, his extreme adroitness in yielding to the necessities of times and situations, and the marvellous tact with which, his hand placed on the pulse of Great Britain, he contrived to calculate the exact measure of their tendencies and aspirations. Having quitted the ranks of the Tory party in 1828, he passed over to that of the Whigs, without entirely giving himself up to them, but preserving a sufficient affinity with his old allies to enable them, in his latter years, almost to claim him anew as one of their set, and to induce them to make against him a war of mere form at the Parliamentary elections of last July. His death, which is a public calamity for England, will doubtless bring about the decomposition of the old Whig party, for a long time foretold, and postponed only by his immense personal influence.

L'Indépendance Belge:—

Lord Palmerston, Prime Minister to Queen Victoria, is no more. . . . His loss will be regarded as a public calamity. The quickness, suppleness, and the infinite resources of his intellect; his courage in confronting, sometimes with a levity more apparent than real, difficulties and dangers before which other statesmen receded; an invaluable aptitude to foresee the fluctuations of public opinion and to follow them when the interests of England or those of his ambition counselled him—these qualities which during a long political career made Lord Palmerston the most popular person in his own country, and the corner-stone of the arch which maintained the balance of parties in the period of transformation which England, and Europe with her, is traversing at this moment.

Cologne Gazette:—

If anyone in future times wishes to sketch the portrait of an English statesman he had better try to write Lord Palmerston's history. Free England has the good fortune to possess statesmen of reputation as a special class—men called by birth and education to devote themselves to public affairs. . . . Palmerston had not the cool calculation of the younger—not the deep seriousness and the religious conscientiousness of a Peel. The English also do not assign him so high a place in oratory as the fiery Canning; they even considered him as subordinate to the sophistical Gladstone and other modern speakers. But this judgment is probably mainly based upon imperfect delivery and outward form; otherwise it would only prove the defective taste of the English. Many of his speeches, even those only delivered at an election or a dinner, are real masterpieces of manly eloquence and delicate taste, overflowing with spirit and humour. Without being a learned man or an expert, he yet represented the advanced spirit of general education and enlightened humanity as hardly any other English statesman, and yet he was a genuine Englishman in mind and manner of life. He was as indefatigable in the hunting-field as at the desk, and exercised all the more influence over his nation because he was its genuine son. As regards his personal character as a man, he had no enemy. He charmed even his opponents; and, together with his amiable consort, the widowed Lady Cowper, stood, so to speak, at the head of English society. He understood how to appreciate every species of power and superiority, not confining himself to that of birth; and in society he was amiability itself, as everyone will testify who experienced the affability of his manners. Whenever he visited his Irish estates he was completely idolised by his tenants and employees. There could not be a more generous landlord. . . . From one generation of Englishmen to another the saying will be handed down, "We are all proud of him."

The Abendpost of Vienna:—

Lord Palmerston was never a statesman in the highest sense of the word; but he was admittedly the first Parliamentary tactician of England. No one was so thoroughly acquainted as he with the political organisation of the country, the forces to be taken into consideration, the weaknesses of his partisans and of his opponents, the nature of public opinion and that of Parliamentary life. No Minister has ever fought more brilliant Parliamentary battles, and he has gained the object he set himself to attain, to achieve which he sacrificed the whole strength of his life and his mind; he remained in power to the hour of his death. . . . In the settlement of almost all political questions in the Old World he played a conspicuous, often a decisive part; he raised the power of England for a time to the highest pinnacle it has ever reached, and his greatest error, his policy against North America during the civil war, was at the same time his last. Great as were his excellencies and talents, great also were his faults and weaknesses; and there will be many who will say, upon hearing of his death, "He died too late for England's fame."

The Debatte, of Vienna:—

Lord Palmerston—"the best-abused man in England," as he called himself; "Old Pam," as the English people delighted in jokingly styling him—is no more; and with him the present age has lost one of its most prominent men, a mind of the rarest gifts, a politician upon the most magnificent scale. The news of his death has created a deep and melancholy impression; not that we belong to his unconditional admirers and adherents, or that we fear, after his decease, a political deluge will burst upon us which no one will be able to withstand. It is a simple human sentiment by which we are overcome. We have lost one to whom we were accustomed, and whose assistance seemed indispensable in all events of grand political life. Contemporary with nearly three generations, he had also become familiar to us with all his virtues and faults, his deficiencies and talents. We were eager listeners to his words, which always bore the stamp of superiority; we laughed, with his countrymen, at his good-humoured jokes, and bowed beneath his withering sarcasm, even when our sympathies frequently called us to the side of his opponents. We now stand before a void. England, indeed, has no lack of statesmen. Palmerston will doubtless find successors who will equally guide the strong ship of the English State with a safe hand; but none will be so near to us as Palmerston, who in the totality of his appearance was the most exact expression of true English nationality, and who therefore exercised an influence in all directions, as is the case with everything of a truly national character.

LORD PALMERSTON AS AN AUTHOR.

Pretty early in life Lord Palmerston began to write; and, though he was too much of a politician to study the graces of literary expression, his hand was sharply felt in the "Tory mischief" then going on. The "New Whig Guide," a pleasant battery directed against the Liberal Opposition, was mainly, we believe, written by Lord Palmerston, Sir Robert Peel, and Mr. Wilson Croker. Palmerston wrote a sparkling piece of banter under the title of "Report of the Trial of Henry Brongham for calling Mr. Ponsonby an Old Woman." This squib is very like the Harry Temple of late years. Brongham is found guilty, but recommended to mercy on the ground of his having vilified the Prince Regent. Lord Palmerston also contributed a plan for rearranging the Red Book on scientific principles, introducing the Linnaean system into Parliament. Had he cultivated this talent of dryness he might, perhaps, have carried off some of Canning's laurels; but society and office, won too early in life, seduced him from literature, which never grew to be anything more than a toy to him. Some of his speeches, particularly the speech in defence of his foreign policy, and many of his minutes and despatches, have great merit. The public would be glad to see his

papers on the Eastern question, the Spanish marriages, and the Crimean War. *Athenaeum.*

LORD PALMERSTON'S FAMILY.

A contemporary, correcting some erroneous statements which have been put forth about the late Lord Palmerston, observes that Lord Palmerston had one brother, the late Sir William Temple, and two sisters, the eldest married to Admiral Sir W. Bowles; she died in 1838—the second was married to the Right Hon. Laurence Sullivan; she died in 1837, leaving two sons and three daughters. Her eldest son died at Lima, tragically, in 1856. Her only remaining son, the Rev. Henry Sullivan, is now Rector of Yoxhall, Staffordshire. Her eldest daughter married Henry Hippisley, Esq.; her second daughter, the Rev. R. Baker, Vicar of Fulham; her third daughter is unmarried. Thus it will be seen that Lord Palmerston left one nephew and three nieces.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

On Friday week the Emperor Napoleon, in order to satisfy himself that proper care was taken of the cholera patients, paid an unexpected and private visit to the Hôtel Dieu. It is said his Majesty was well pleased with what he saw, and was glad to find that the cases were neither severe nor numerous. This gracious act touched the feelings of the people, who loudly cheered his Majesty as he returned from the hospital. The Empress Eugénie, following the example of the Emperor, has nobly rebuked the pusillanimous fears of the crowd of panic-stricken Parisians who have fled to Versailles and other places in search of protection from the cholera. On Monday morning her Majesty visited the various cholera hospitals of the capital, passing through the wards and addressing words of comfort to the poor suffering patients. On leaving, her Majesty was loudly cheered by the people. A considerable sum of money has been placed in the hands of the Minister of the Interior by the Emperor and Empress for the relief of the families of sufferers by the pestilence.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys has issued a diplomatic circular defining the objects and operations of the Sanitary Congress to meet at Constantinople, and which has been favourably received by most of the European Governments. The Conference is not to interfere in the internal administration of any country, and the measures it may advocate can only be put into practice in each country by the consent and authority of the Government.

SPAIN.

The cholera has entirely disappeared from Barcelona, Valencia, and the Balearic Islands. At Madrid on Tuesday there were fifty cases, of which thirty-two proved fatal. The Queen has made a donation of 1,000,000 reals to meet the expenses of tending persons attacked with cholera.

ITALY.

The election of deputies to the new Parliament is now going on. About 140 electoral districts have already definitively elected their representatives to the Chamber of Deputies. Of these 90 belong to the Moderate Liberal party, 5 to the Clerical party, and 45 to the Constitutional Opposition.

AUSTRIA.

It is asserted that, at the last sitting of the Council of Ministers, it was resolved to concede to Hungary a separate Ministry. The Austrian Government is said to be desirous of arriving at an understanding with Hungary on the broadest possible basis. It is further stated that the Emperor is favourable to a policy by which the separation, to a certain extent, of the administration of Hungary from that of the other provinces of the empire would be carried out.

The Vienna papers deny that Austria has consented to place a yearly contingent at the disposal of the Emperor of Mexico, and state that the sole cause for rumours which are afloat upon the subject is that negotiations are going on for permission to raise recruits in Austria, at the expense of the Mexican Government, to fill up the gap made by death and other causes in the ranks of the Austro-Mexican volunteers.

PRUSSIA AND THE DUCHIES.

Baron Zedlitz, the Prussian Civil Commissioner for the duchy of Schleswig, has issued a circular note to all the public functionaries and officials of the duchy in reference to a demonstration made in honour of the Duke of Augustenburg on his passage lately through the town of Eckernförde. He orders the functionaries, in case of any repetition of such an event, to call out the military, in order to restrain those who give titles to any person or pay him homage which must be reserved for the Sovereign of the country, and also to proceed against any person who might accept such demonstrations. The officials are ordered to declare within three days whether or not they are prepared to carry out those instructions.

FRANKFORT, AUSTRIA, AND PRUSSIA.

A quarrel which reflects little honour upon the stronger parties has arisen between Austria and Prussia and the free town of Frankfort. The two great Powers are bullying the Senate of the town because of the recent congress of German deputies held there. The tone of the Prussian note is dictatorial and threatening. "Up to the last moment (it says) we entertained hopes that the Senate would prevent the meeting of those delegates. We regret that we have been disappointed, and that we are again convinced that the Senate is willing for Frankfort to become the source of all senseless schemes. We can no longer tolerate such indulgence to revolutionary tendencies. We cannot permit that the seat of the Federal Diet should be made the principal scene of efforts for undermining the authority of the two first German Powers, and that of that town should issue publications surpassing all others in coarseness. We hope that the Senate of Frankfort will not act in such a manner as to compel the two great German Powers to intervene, in order to prevent the further consequences of an indulgence which has already been carried too far." The Austrian Government has sent a similar remonstrance to the Senate.

The Senate of Frankfort has replied to these despatches in an identical note addressed to each of the two Powers energetically rejecting the demands made. The Senate cites the Federal Constitution, which allows to no member of the German Confederation an arbitrary intervention in the sovereign rights of the other German States. The Vienna papers state that the reply of the Senate has, not only on account of its form, which is said to be at variance with diplomatic usage, but also on account of its contents, greatly surprised and offended the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is asserted that Austria and Prussia have already agreed about certain propositions to be submitted to the Federal Diet on this question.

THE UNITED STATES.

Our advices from New York extend to the 14th inst. The delegation appointed by the South Carolina Convention to ask for pardon for Mr. Jefferson Davis, Alexander H. Stephens, Secretary Trenholme, and Governor Magrath of South Carolina, waited upon the President on the 13th, and made known to him their mission. Mr. Johnson replied that all could not be pardoned at once, and that discretion in the exercise of clemency was necessary. So far as Messrs. Trenholme and Stephens were concerned, he had anticipated the petition. If treason had been committed, the power of the Government to punish that crime should be determined by the highest tribunal, and the fact declared, even if executive clemency should follow. He added that there need be no malice or prejudice on the part of the Government in carrying out that duty. One of the delegation then asked that Mrs. Jefferson Davis might be allowed to reside with her friends in South Carolina, instead of being confined in Georgia, as at present; to which the President replied, that he had received several letters from Mrs. Davis, only one of which was of a tone to recommend her as a subject for leniency.

The President had previously ordered the release of the Confederate Vice-President Stephens of Georgia, and the Finance Minister Trenholme, of South Carolina; Postmaster-General Reegan, of Texas; Judge Campbell, of Alabama; and Governor Clark, of

Mississippi, upon giving their parole to abide in their respective States until further orders and to appear and answer to any charges which he may direct to be preferred against them.

The election of a Constitutional Governor of Mississippi, under the provisions of the recent convention in that State, was held on the 2nd inst. General Humphreys, formerly of the Confederate army, was the successful candidate. The President had pardoned the Governor elect.

The Alabama Convention had directed the local courts to *admit*, instead of exclude, as previously reported, negro testimony until the State Legislature shall have decided whether such testimony is to be permanently received or rejected.

The State elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa had resulted in favour of the Republicans.

A large number of troops in Mississippi were to be mustered out, and the whole of the coloured troops. Martial law in Kentucky had been withdrawn by order of the President.

Mr. McCulloch, the Secretary of the Treasury, had expressed an opinion in favour of a convertible paper currency.

In an address to a regiment of returned negro soldiers in Washington, President Johnson informed them that "liberty" meant freedom to work and to enjoy the produce of their labour; and that, now that they were returning to the avocations of peace, they must evince their fitness to enjoy that freedom. He added, that the problem was about to be solved whether 4,000,000 of their race, having all the prejudices of the whites to contend against, could mingle harmoniously and congruously in the social system of the country, or if it would become necessary to set them apart as a separate and distinct people. In conclusion, he urged them to prove the possibility of the former by controlling their passions, and improving and judiciously employing their intellectual and physical powers.

MEXICO.

Philadelphia papers publish intelligence from El Paso to the 3rd inst. that Juarez and all the members of his Cabinet were at Franklin, opposite El Paso, on the American side of the Rio Grande. Senor Navarro, the Juarist Consul at New York, denies the truth of this statement.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

(From the *Times*.)

The great strength of Hungary in all her struggles with Austria has been that she was not in search of political theories, but that the people clearly knew what they wanted. Never, perhaps, in the whole history of Hungary has this been more apparent than during the Diet of 1861, which was called together to take cognisance of the February Constitution, which had just been granted by the Emperor, and to provide for the representation of Hungary in the new Reichsrath.

For more than eleven years the country had been under martial law, which seemed to have trodden out every spark of constitutional and national life. Old political parties had been broken up, many of the leaders were gone, and a new generation had grown up unversed in political life. At the Emperor's fiat the pressure was withdrawn. All the complicated machinery of bureaucracy ceased its functions in one day, and the next the country had organised its system of interior self-government in counties and towns, and when the Diet met, one and all, without distinction of parties, asked for the restoration of the legal state of things as it had been fixed by the last Diet of 1848, and would hear of no discussions on other subjects until this was done.

It was on this rock that the Diet of 1861 was wrecked. The Government of Vienna wished first to have removed those parts of the laws of 1848 which were objectionable to it, whereas the Diet was unanimously of opinion that nothing could be done until legality was first restored. The only difference which manifested itself was whether this decision should take the shape of an address to the Throne or of a resolution of the House. It was on the form in which the demands should be presented to the Throne that the discussion turned in the Diet; on the nature of the demands themselves all parties were unanimous.

The dissolution of the Diet was a triumph rather than a defeat, for, after having tried in vain to state the legal ground on which the nation had taken its stand, the Crown concluded by taking up the position that "Hungary, by rising in arms against the Sovereign, had forfeited all her rights." It was tantamount to admitting the full right of Hungary to the position which she claimed, and that the only title by which the Emperor of Austria could claim her was that of the strongest. How serious the consequences of this position assumed by the Emperor might have been in the event of a crisis in Austria need hardly be discussed.

But the deadweight alone of such a false position has been too much for Austria, and it may be a useful lesson to those who worship centralisation and scoff at self-government as powerless for national purposes to see how a people kept under martial law, without any means of combining for a common purpose, or even of uttering its wishes, has, by that habit of organisation which self-government alone gives, so shaped its passive resistance that, without raising a finger or uttering a word, it has forced a Government despoiling of all the resources of a great empire to renounce its past policy and to offer the hand for a compromise.

The difficulty was, where and how to begin. There was deep-seated distrust on both sides. The National party was set down in Vienna as averse to all compromise and as aiming at a total separation from Austria; while the Vienna Government was, with rather more ground, looked upon all over Hungary as bent on the destruction of the political existence of Hungary. There existed, indeed, a small cluster of political men who stood, as it were, between the Crown and the nation—the so-called Old Conservatives. They had been the instruments by which the Court had carried out its policy in Hungary before 1848, and they had kept aloof during the war. The Court then could scarcely mistrust their intentions. On the other hand, although they were known to have been averse to the laws of 1848, which put an end to their power as a party, they had swum with the stream in 1861, and upheld the validity of those laws until they were legally repealed; and in this manner they had, up to a certain point, retrieved their position in Hungary.

The Old Conservatives possessed besides the advantage of standing nearer to the party in the non-Hungarian provinces with which alone an understanding seemed possible—namely, the Federalists. The struggle of Hungary for self-government had not remained without its effect on the non-Hungarian provinces, above all on Bohemia, Moravia, and Galicia. Every Session of the Reichsrath showed the number of those increasing who seemed to understand that Hungary, while guarding her own rights, was in reality fighting the battle of all the provinces against the bureaucratic centralisation. For years the aim of this party has been to draw nearer to Hungary; but, composed mostly of members of the high aristocracy, it appeared too much in the character of a class to excite much confidence in the National party of Hungary, which shrunk instinctively from what seemed an unnatural alliance. It would have been very different had the so-called Liberal party not been so enamoured with its system of centralisation, and had it taken steps towards a fair reconciliation with Hungary.

Finding thus no echo with the National party in Hungary, the Federalists associated with the Old Conservatives, and both used their influence at Court to induce the Emperor to intrust the task of reconciliation with Hungary to them. The answer was invariably, "Show that you have sufficient influence with the National party in Hungary to induce it to lend a hand to the compromise, and we will trust you." Accordingly, the Old Conservatives began to associate with Deak, who, since the Diet of 1861, has retained his position as leader of the National party. They assured him of the readiness of the Emperor to come to fair terms, of the co-operation of the Federal party in Bohemia and Galicia, and appealed to his patriotism. Not wishing to be an obstacle to an attempt at reconciliation, from whatever side it came, Deak at last yielded to their entreaties, and about Easter an article appeared in the *Horn*, the organ of the National party, saying that, while holding steadfastly to her right, Hungary even ought to be ready to make sacrifices to come to an

understanding, for on that depended the welfare of the monarchy. The article, though not signal, was understood to be from the pen of Deak, and it was triumphantly shown in Vienna. The Emperor was so satisfied that, without even informing his then advisers, he set out on his journey to Hungary. The reception at first was anything but cordial, but by degrees the behaviour and the promises of the Emperor produced such a change that his Majesty had full reason to be satisfied and strengthened in his resolution.

The Schmerling Ministry was dismissed and the Belcredi-Mailath Ministry formed, which has adopted federalism as its device, and endeavours to bring about an arrangement on the basis of provincial self-government. It is no longer the Government which pretends to bring about a reconciliation between the different parts of the empire, but the different provinces are to come to an understanding between themselves.

Everyone acquainted with the circumstances must give the Ministry considerable credit for the cleverness which they have hitherto displayed in grappling with a difficult and delicate position. Indeed, the danger is of its having displayed too much cleverness. The February Constitution, based as it was on centralisation, had to be abolished; but, in order to break the shock, and as far as possible to remove all idea of a return to absolutism, the Diets of the different Crown lands, Hungary included, were convoked first. All are to meet in November, with the exception of that of Hungary, which is called together for the 10th of December.

The cause of this delay with respect to Hungary is to allow the Diets of Transylvania and Croatia to pronounce whether they are disposed to resume their connection with Hungary. One of the first and chief grievances of the Hungarian Diet in 1861 was that the Diet was not complete because the above-named countries, which were in legal connection with Hungary, had not been convoked to take part. If, as there is every reason to believe, the Diets of Croatia and Transylvania shall be induced to resume their union with Hungary, the Government may flatter itself to have made a master-stroke of policy, for it will have re-established the integrity of the kingdom of Hungary according to the law, and yet may claim credit for having consulted the wishes of Transylvania and Croatia. At the same time, by introducing into the Hungarian Diet elements which are more under the control and influence of the Government, it may gain considerable strength in the Hungarian Diet itself. If however, this attempt fails them, there is danger of the Government having spoiled its position with both sides. The simplest and most straightforward course would certainly have been to call upon Transylvania and Croatia to send, according to law, their representatives to the Hungarian Diet. If they had refused no one could have blamed the Ministry.

Another equally hazardous stroke of policy has been attempted with regard to the re-establishment of the interior self-government of Hungary. The administration of the counties and towns by elected magistrates is the basis of the self-government in Hungary; but, with a view to influence the elections for the Diet, the Government has taken its stand on an article of the laws of 1848, which says that no new election of magistrates shall take place until the Diet meets and has given the power to the Commissioners of the Governments to change and replace or keep the existing magistrates. This is sacrificing the spirit to the letter; for at the time when the law was passed there were magistrates elected by the counties, whereas those existing now have all been appointed by Government. It will, again, depend on the result whether it will prove a clever stroke of policy or a mistake; for if, in spite of this clever manoeuvre, the Government fails to bring in a large majority of adherents, it may be converted into a charge of illegality, which would be a bad beginning.

But, after all, much, if not all, will depend on the practical suggestions the Government may have to make with respect to Hungary's position in confederate Austria. After what has passed, no one will blame Hungary for being on her guard; nay, disdained. Straightforward dealing can alone remove the bad effects of the past. Woe if it be an attempt to make a clever bargain! It may succeed, but will not solve the difficulty. The compact, to be lasting, must be as fair as it can be to all parties. If such a spirit should animate both sides, a compromise, although difficult, is not impossible.

What the demands of Hungary will be is, of course, impossible to predict. Until the Diet meets, and the Government brings out its programme, the attitude of the nation must be that of reserve. Still, judging from the past, one might venture to hint at some points which will probably be insisted upon with the old tenacity.

The first of these is the recognition of what is called "a continuity of rights"—that is, the recognition of all the laws legally enacted; and, indeed, the whole question hinges there. Like the British Constitution, the Hungarian is the growth of centuries. It begins with the beginning of the kingdom, and goes down in an unbroken chain to the year 1848, in which the last statutes for Hungary were enacted—legally, that is—with the consent of the nation and the sanction of the King. If one link in this chain were taken out arbitrarily by one party, the validity of the whole would be lost for ever.

This is the meaning of that stanch and unanimous insistence on the part of Hungary on the restoration of legality in the sense of the laws of 1848. Apart from the consideration that the statutes of 1848 establish a national government in the modern sense of the word, the vital question whether Hungary can claim any rights at all depends on the recognition of 1848.

Once this is granted, the basis is laid for the negotiation, and Hungary, secure of her legal position, will no doubt be ready to discuss how the laws of 1848 can be brought into harmony with the interests of the rest of the empire.

She may, for instance, be induced to take part in a representation of all the counties of the empire as such, and leave to that body the control over foreign affairs, commercial tariffs and treaties, and postal arrangements, which latter might be easily settled on the model of the German Zollverein. The great difficulty will be the Finance and War Departments—above all—the latter.

As for the first, the demands of Hungary are more reasonable than is usually supposed. She has always defrayed her own internal administration, which, being self-government, is cheap. She may take a portion of the national debt upon herself, but will scarcely leave the management where it is now. She will, no doubt, be ready to pay her share of the civil list and of the diplomatic service, and the sum which may be fixed per head for each soldier she gives. But Hungary will probably be found immovable as to the complete disposition of all her resources, and will insist on taxing herself for all these purposes as she thinks fit. Nor is it easy to see how any such arrangement would break up the empire.

More complicated is the question of the army. That Hungary will ever give up the right of voting the number of men demanded is not very probable. The question can only be whether she may give up a portion of her right to have a national army, and leave the whole management of it in the hands of her own Minister of War. How far Hungary may go in her concessions on this point will, probably, depend on the way she has been dealt with in other matters. If she sees that there is a real wish to be fair and considerate, no doubt she will repay confidence by confidence.

THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE OF ITALY.—A communication from Florence of the 18th says:—"The halls of meeting for the two Chambers are completely restored and adapted to their parliamentary destination. The Royal sitting will be held in the Palazzo Vecchio, the hall of the Senate not being so large as that of the Five Hundred. The preference has been given to the latter in consequence of its size, and from the glorious recollections which belong to it. Near the throne are five arm-chairs, for the King and Queen of Portugal, Princess Clotilde, Prince Napoleon, and Prince Humbert, who will stay at Florence for a few days while on his way from Milan to Naples, where he is to hold his Court this winter."

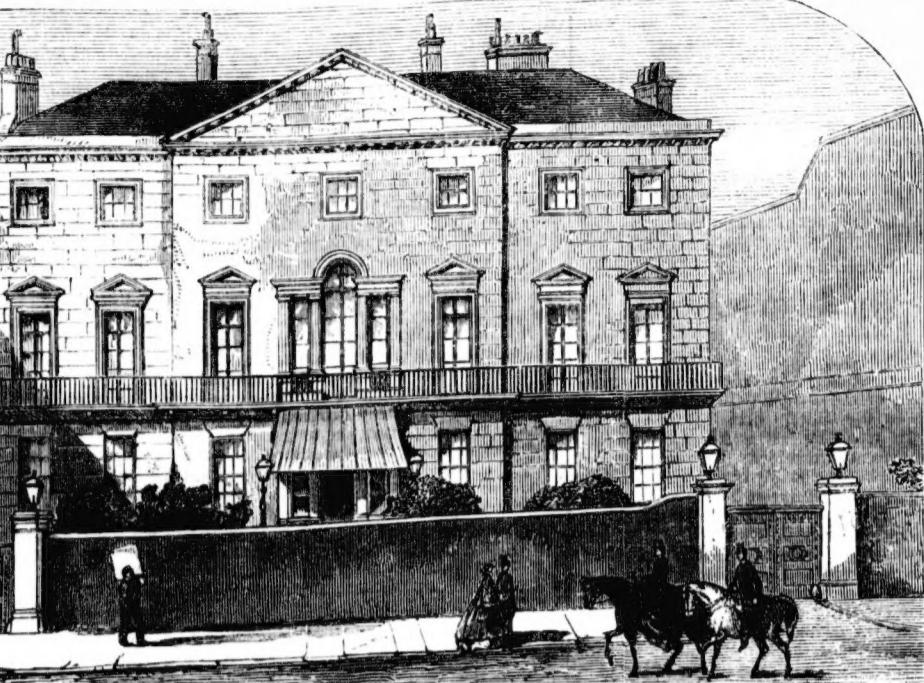
THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—The Cambridgeshire was run for on Tuesday at Newmarket, in the presence of the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and the Duke of Cambridge. Thirty-six horses contended for the stakes, and the first, second, and third horses were all rank outsiders, the third being at 25 to 1 and the second as well as the winner at 33 to 1. Gladiatore was too heavily weighted, the ground being also so wet as to give the horses with light weights a considerable advantage.

COLUMBIA MARKET.

IT is now rather more than a year ago that there appeared in these columns—and, indeed, in the columns of many of the most influential of the London newspapers—some description of a poor and wretched neighbourhood in the metropolis, the utter misery of which, and the neglect and cruelty exhibited by those who had authority there, raised the indignation of a multitude of people, who forced upon the Poor-Law Board the necessity for inquiry; went to the length of obtaining a commission; and printed, or at all events reported at some length, the evidence; and was followed by partial indifference, if not total oblivion, before the evils were remedied and while unwilling officials made a pretence of setting to work in earnest. The illustrations which we then published of miserable rooms, where the starving and suffering inmates huddled together amid dirt and disease, might be repeated to-day and still be true. The descriptions of our special correspondent, who, possessing some previous acquaintance with his subject, made a fresh tour of inspection in the locality of Nicholls-street and other foul purleus of Bethnal-green, might be reprinted, and would still, in many cases, remain unchallenged; and the opinion then expressed, that the fact of these dens "having existed so long is a pretty plain evidence that they will yield to nothing short of direct legislative interference," has unhappily received entire confirmation.

Coincident with the difficulty in determining how the inhabitants of this district can contrive to support existence in some of the filthy hovels or dilapidated and evil-smelling tenements, which, crowded as they generally are from garret to cellar, must return a better income to the landlords than the rent of a respectable dwelling, is that of the nature of the food which the poorest among them could procure in order to sustain life. The stykes which in some part of the neighbourhood added their sickening odours to those that already made the place a fever-nest; the cowsheds, the proximity of which to some of the dwellings were the means of directing attention to the condition of the place; and the slaughterhouses, which elbow the dwellings in blind alleys or fetid "squares," and where not a single sanitary regulation is properly observed, all suggest to an inquiring mind a terrible association with the number of small shops where a few coarse portions of meat occupy a part of the space which is principally devoted to what butchers call offal.

Throughout the main street, leading from Shoreditch and down the thoroughfare of Hackney-road, as well as more notably in Brick-lane, which connects Bethnal-green and Spitalfields,



CAMBRIDGE HOUSE, PICCADILLY, THE TOWN RESIDENCE OF LORD PALMERSTON.

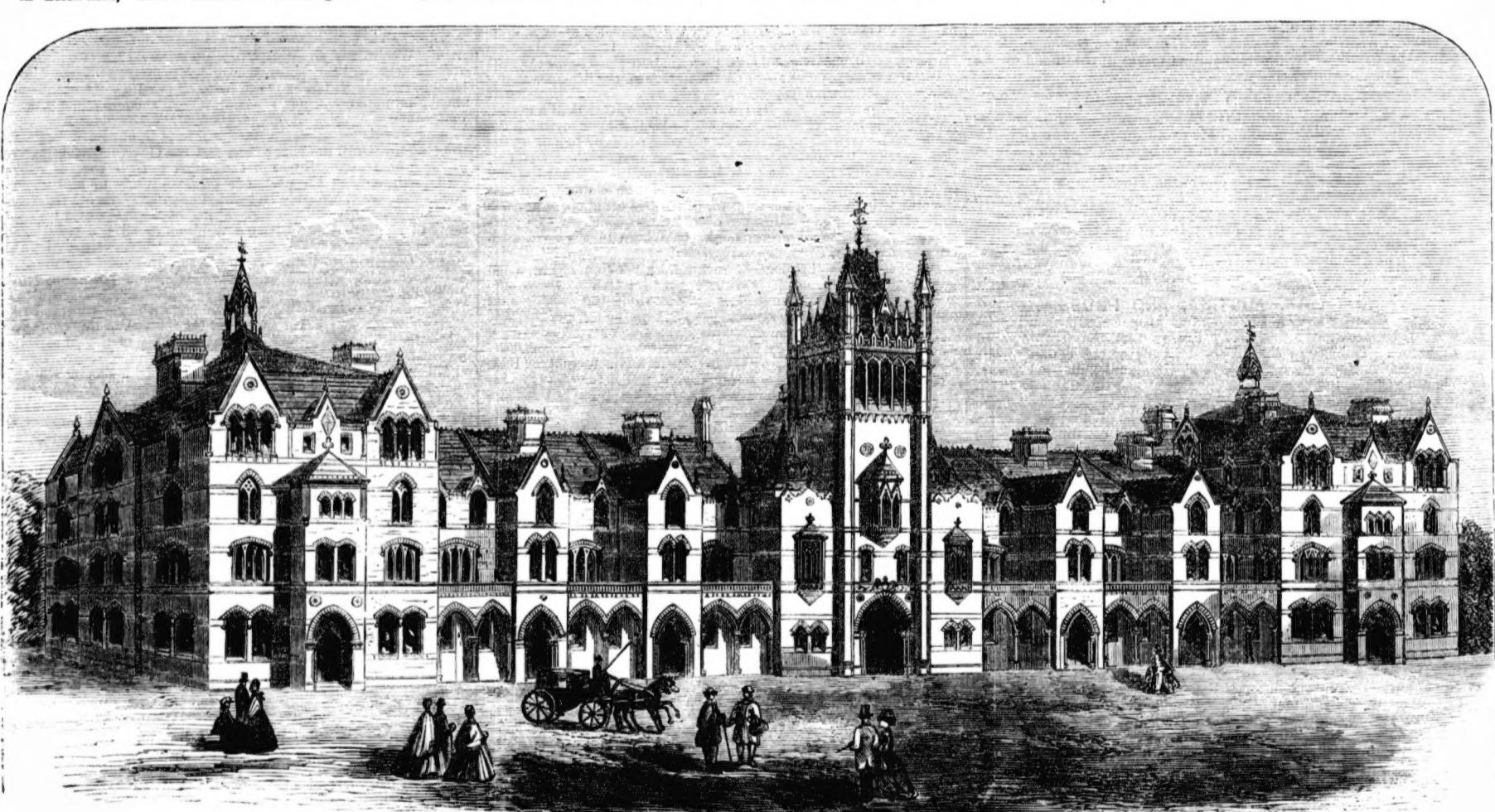
the hucksters and costermongers' barrows crowd the edge of the footway; and that especially on Saturday nights. This place, which has been well called "Poverty Market," is a scene of the most lively confusion, in which the flare of gas and naphtha lamps; the hoarse bawling and shrill cry of the dealers in fish, vegetables, laces, blacking, tinware, and a hundred articles of cheap merchandise; and the hum and hubbub of a struggling throng of poorly-clad, ill-fed people, who have to count their pence before they dare bargain even for the scanty lots set out for sale—are elements all telling of a district where pinching want must be the usual condition of the inhabitants.

The provisions brought there are too often only the damaged residue of such supplies as are sent to the regular markets—bought at a price which will enable the huckster to make a profit even out of the penny or the twopence that he asks from his customers. When the damage is only such a defect as injures the sightliness of the wares without materially affecting their entire soundness, this is a natural and necessary distinction; but it must frequently happen that the flaring lights, the crowd, the throng of people, and the urgent necessity of buying something, even for a penny, may lead to frauds which, while they are no more common amongst the poor dealers than with the "respectable shopkeeper," are the more cruel according to the helplessness of those on whom they are practised. Of course, "Poverty Market" has no inspector, no clerk, no "authorities" whose business it is to look to the quality of the merchandise that enters there; and so, as the people them-

It is little to be wondered at that this lady should long ago have thought of Bethnal-green. The model lodging-house, Columbia-buildings, is all that its name implies; and though it may be doubted whether such institutions can ever reach that grade of society where the ooze of misery and crime lies lowest (indeed, by their very constitution they cannot be adapted to poverty so utterly degraded as that of many London districts), it is still a standing proof of what may be done even amidst all the difficulties and discouragements with which those who desire to teach "the lower orders" what is best for themselves will always have to contend.

It is not of this building that we have now to speak, however, but of another institution, only one part of which (represented in our Engraving) is yet completed. We regard the establishment of an organised market in the neighbourhood of Bethnal-green as one of the most practically useful steps yet taken for ameliorating the condition of the people; and the fact that it is built with every attention to architectural details, and is, for its size (as far as we understand the plan), perhaps the best example of such a place to be found in London, will be another advantage which must eventually have a great influence on the district.

Columbia Market, which will stand on a large space of ground in Crabtree-row, only a short distance from Columbia-buildings, will consist of a western and an eastern wing, forming the two sides of a great open area, and united at each end by covered colonnades, the centre of that on the north being occupied by a market-hall, the residence of the clerk of the market holding a similar position



COLUMBIA MARKET, SHOREDITCH, AT PRESENT IN COURSE OF ERECTION BY MISS BURDETT COUTTS.—(H. A. DARBYSHIRE, ARCHITECT.)

in that on the south. The whole place will be under proper inspection; and, while the central area will be devoted to the stands and stalls of dealers in all kinds of wares, the colonnades will be so constructed as to be divided into butchers' shambles and salesmen's open shops.

The architecture is a very ornamental and finely-conceived example of that sort of Domestic Gothic for which Mr. Darbshire, the architect, is so famous. The wing which is just finished, and of which the opposite side will be a counterpart, is divided into large private houses (or rather two splendid buildings, each floor of which forms a good-sized private residence), occupying each end of the wing, while from each of these blocks range shops, with dwelling-houses over, the shops having large and handsome frontages, above which runs a verandah, forming a covered colonnade beneath. The whole of the buildings are admirably conceived, and fitted with the best arrangements for light, water supply, and ventilation; while the style of architecture and

the material employed in building give the entire structure such an imposing appearance that (and we should feel it with shame) the visitor has at first some dim fancy that he has been transported to a Continental city. Let us hope that so good an example may be followed, and that the markets of the streets may be superseded by a better system than a reproduction of what has so long been one of the many nuisances of Bethnal-green.

ENCOUNTER BETWEEN A DOG AND A BURGLAR.—On Sunday morning last an attempt was made to enter the house of a farmer and beerhouse-keeper, named William Liptrot, residing at Orrell, near the village of Lamberhead Green; but a dog kept by the family completely discomfited the gang. The dog slept at the door of the bed-room of the sons of the farmer, and about three o'clock on Sunday morning it awakened the young men by barking and scratching at the door of a small pantry on the ground floor. The sons des-

cended and opened the door, when the dog rushed in and seized by the waistcoat a man who was making his exit by an open window, and as the sons were following, a pistol, loaded with shot, was fired either at the dog or at them, and they, in consequence, hastily retired. The dog, however, stuck fast, and though one or two burglars outside were pulling against the animal, no doubt the man would have been secured, but the vest gave way, the dog lost his hold, and ere he could again seize the thief the ruffian had escaped through the window. The dog would have followed, but he was held back by the inmates, who were afraid lest the burglars, who had shown that they were possessed of firearms, should destroy him. A couple of police constables, who heard the report of the pistol, were on the spot in a few moments, but the thieves had vanished in the fog and darkness. Information was at once conveyed to the police office at Pemberton, and, as it was believed that the burglars had come from Wigan, an extra staff of constables was placed on duty, so as, if possible, to intercept them on their return.

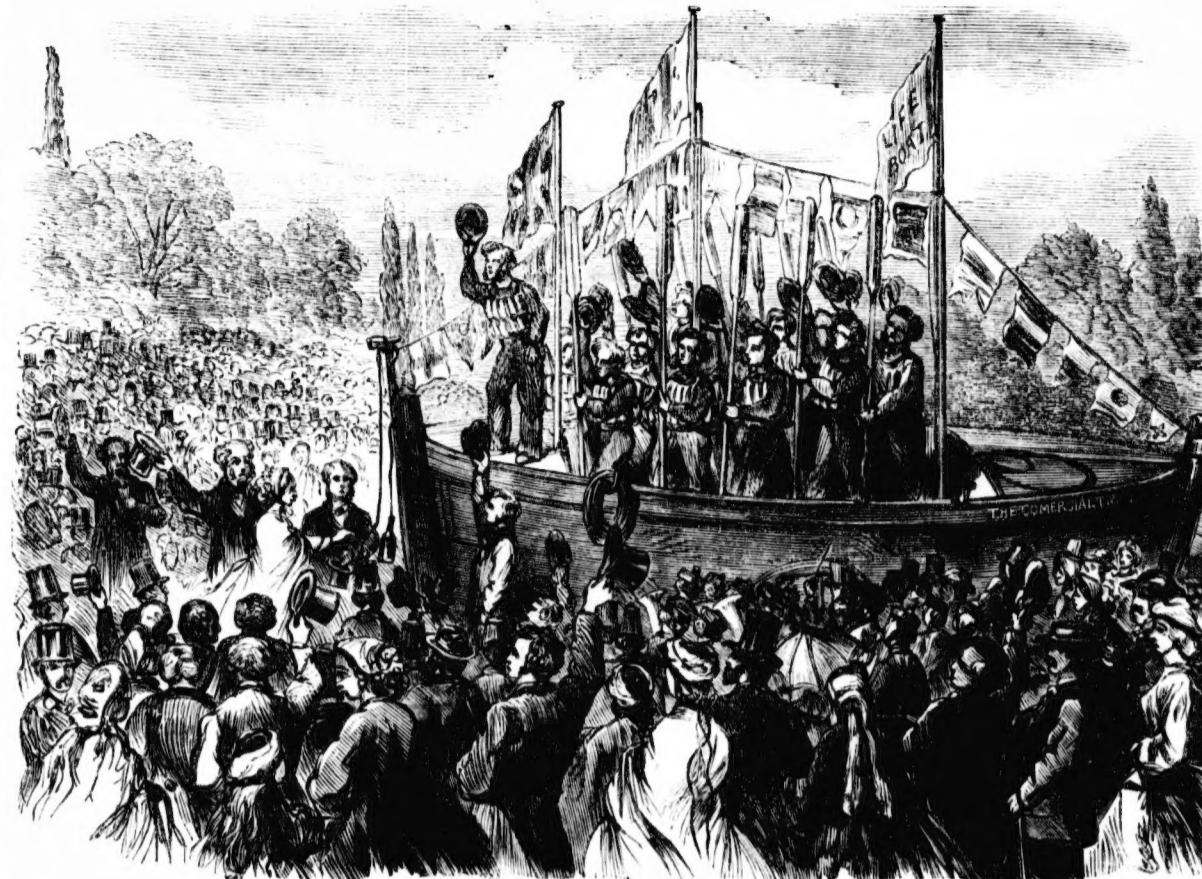
selves are left to the "tender mercies" of so-called "guardians" and "relieving officers," their food is too often but the offscourings and rejected surpluses of the large depots.

Well, thank Heaven! though boards and vestries neutralise each other, and though, in spite of Social Science Congresses and all sorts of associations, the people perish for lack of knowledge as well as for lack of bread, and air, and water, there are still some left to regard the cry of the poor, and amongst the number of those who have pleaded their cause and held out helping hands the name of one noble woman has become almost synonymous with that active and thoughtful beneficence which is far greater than the tepid sentimentalism that nowadays goes by the name of charity. We refer, of course, to Miss Burdett Coutts, who has long ago passed beyond the flattery of the subscription-list, and has become, as it were, a representative of social benevolence, and an exponent of the true meaning of the use of wealth.

PRESENTATION OF A LIFE-BOAT, AT SHEFFIELD.

ON Monday the presentation of a life-boat, a ceremony of an interesting and unusual description in an inland town, took place in Sheffield, and attracted considerable attention. The ceremony was inaugurated by a procession through the town to the Botanical Gardens, where the boat was christened by Miss Rebecca Jessop, the Mayor's second daughter, and then formally presented to the National Life-boat Institution. The procession mustered in the Corn Market, and the line of route was greatly thronged, the scene in High-street being of the liveliest description. Flags and banners were displayed at different points, and the bells of the parish church rang out merry peals. No public demonstration nowadays would be complete if the Volunteers did not take part therein, and accordingly, in addition to the police, there were the rifles and the artillery numerously represented, and accompanied by their respective bands, who enlivened the journey by their performances. The appearance of the life-boat on its carriage, manned by sturdy sailors wearing cork life-belts, was the signal for a hearty cheer, given with spontaneous unanimity and good-will. On the carriage underneath the boat sat Captain David Robertson, R.N., assistant inspector of life-boats; and Mr. Terry, the hon. local secretary. The little craft was followed by an engine, the object of which is to obtain mastery over a very different element, fire. This engine, which belonged to the Liverpool and London Office, was fully manned, and added considerably to the appearance of the fête. There were also carriages belonging to the Mayor, Alderman Jackson, and others, in the procession, and the display was a highly pleasing one. On the arrival of the boat at the lower gate of the Botanical Gardens the six horses which had drawn it through the town were unyoked, and the members of the artillery corps, by means of a couple of ropes attached to the carriage, dragged it in gallant style to that part of the gardens where the ceremony of christening and presentation was to take place.

After a brief address from the Mayor and an appropriate prayer by the Rev. Canon Sale, D.D., the ceremonies of christening and presenting the boat took place, shortly after which the proceedings in the gardens terminated. A banquet to celebrate the occasion was held in the evening.



DEMONSTRATION AT SHEFFIELD IN HONOUR OF THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' LIFE-BOAT.

The boat has been purchased by the commercial travellers of the United Kingdom, and this is the second which they have raised. Mr. R. Atleck, of Manchester, Mr. W. Bishop, of Boston, Lincolnshire, and other friends, have been indefatigable in their exertions to promote the collection of this life-boat fund. She is a fine boat, 32 ft. long and 7 ft. wide, and has ten oars, double banked. Her self-righting qualities were fully and satisfactorily tested a few days ago in the Regent's Canal Dock, London. The water she shipped was self-ejected through patent valves in twenty-five seconds. The following are some of the remarkable qualities of the boat:—Great lateral stability; speed against a heavy sea; facility for launching and taking the shore; immediate self-discharge of any water breaking into her; the important advantage of self-righting if upset; strength; and stowage room for a number of passengers. The boat was built by Messrs. Forrest and Son, of Limehouse. The transporting carriage of the boat was made by Mr. J. Robinson, of Kentish Town.

prize—viz., about £3 18s. 6d., while £3 14s. per ounce. The Bendigo, or Sandhurst, gold, is particularly pure and high coloured, while that of the Omeo has more of a brassy appearance; that from Beechworth and its adjacent diggings, like the gold from Bendigo, being pure.

The storekeepers who buy gold are generally old hands on the diggings, as the trade requires a person with a good knowledge of the appearance and character of the metal produced in his particular district, more especially if it commands a high price, as frauds are continually attempted by unscrupulous people, who bring gold, the produce of other diggings, which commands a less price, and represent it as coming from his; besides which, they often mix a third lower-priced gold with that which really has been got in his particular locality. The Chinese, who form a very large body, are mostly a dishonest set. Although they are such simple-looking people, they have succeeded in committing the greatest frauds on some of



GOLD-BUYING IN AUSTRALIA.

By an ingenious contrivance the boat, with her crew on board, is launched off the carriage with their cars in their hands. The crew are thus enabled to obtain headway before the breakers have time to beat the boat broadside on the beach. The hauling up of the boat on her carriage is accomplished with equal facility. A free conveyance was readily granted to the boat and carriage to Sheffield by the Midland Railway Company, and thence to Liverpool by the continuous railway companies. The Isle of Man Royal Mail Steam-packet Company have also undertaken to convey the boat from Liverpool on similar liberal terms.

SKETCHES OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER.
GOLD-BUYING ON THE DIGGINGS.

THE style of gold-buying we have endeavoured to illustrate is most common on the smaller diggings or distant parts of larger ones, where the banks do not consider it worth while erecting branch establishments. The storekeeper, whom we should term in England shopkeeper, has a conspicuous notice posted outside his building to the effect that he gives the highest price for gold; and in many instances quotes the exact one given, especially when there is much competition. The value depends very much on the colour and purity, the produce of different diggings and districts having different values; for instance, that of Bendigo generally commands the highest market

that of the Omeo is worth only £3 14s. per ounce. The Bendigo, or Sandhurst, gold, is particularly pure and high coloured, while that of the Omeo has more of a brassy appearance; that from Beechworth and its adjacent diggings, like the gold from Bendigo, being pure.

The storekeepers who buy gold are generally old hands on the

the sharpest of the European and Yankee gold-buyers—the latter priding themselves on being pretty 'cute'; and we really think, whenever they have been victimised, that the knowledge of having been "done" by a Chinaman was more annoying to them than the loss of their money. The principal trick of the Chinese consists in producing a compound of lead, pewter, and gold leaf, which composition the ingenious rogues manufacture so beautifully as almost to defy detection, more especially when mixed with really pure metal. In the early days they victimised the gold-buyers sadly; for they were looked upon then as a harmless, timid race, until, on several occasions, the storekeepers found they had been swindled by the Celestials. The police on several occasions made raids into their tents at midnight, and there, by the almost imperceptible Chinese oil-lamp, caught John Chinaman busily engaged manufacturing nuggets with which to supply the European market, they finding it impossible very often to deceive their own countrymen, who, generally speaking, are initiated into the secret. They were also the inventors of another mode of fraud—viz., that of blowing through a long pipe, which they pretended to smoke, into the gold scale, and thus depressing it prematurely.

A. A. S.

THE TREATMENT OF THE HOUSELESS POOR IN BERMONDSEY.

MR. FARNALL, the Commissioner of the Poor-Law Board, attended at the Bermondsey Union, on Wednesday week, to inquire into the administration of the Houseless Poor Act in that parish. There was a very full attendance of guardians, and Mr. Youngman occupied the chair.

The Commissioner said that he had brought to his notice the fact that the guardians of this parish allowed the houseless poor to be nearly nightly refused lodging and relief, and that in total contravention of the law. He saw by a report lately laid before the guardians by the master that eighty-six men, sixty-five women, and thirty-four children, in all 185 persons, had been admitted as houseless poor during the week, and 142 refused admission during the same time. He did not think it requisite to make any observations on the Houseless Poor Act lately passed by the Legislature; but he trusted that the guardians of this Union would adopt the law which had been so laid down for the relief of the houseless and distressed, more especially as the whole cost of carrying the Act out was thrown upon the metropolis generally, and not upon the ratepayers of Bermondsey. The refusal to grant relief to applicants for it was altogether illegal; for those who applied for lodging and food had a right to have both. It was the fashion to call the people who applied for relief "vagrants" and "vagabonds"; but, whatever they were, it was the duty of the master of a workhouse to relieve them if they were starving and houseless. He called their attention to a minute signed by Mr. Villiers, the President of the Poor-Law Board, stating "The board consider it necessary, at this period, when winter is rapidly approaching, to remind those who are intrusted with the direction and administration of relief of the nature and extent of the obligations which the law has imposed upon them. It is a fundamental principle of the poor law that every destitute person, without reference to the question of settlement or residence, is primarily entitled to relief when he is actually destitute, and it is the duty of the guardians to see that all necessary and reasonable arrangements are made for affording to every such person the requisite relief, whether in food, clothing, medical attendance, or lodging." The minute then went on to state that in the absence of the master or matron it was the duty of the porter to admit applicants, and that arrangements should be made so that, when the wards were full, the houseless might apply to the relieving officer, in order that the requisite relief should be afforded.

The Master of the workhouse (Mr. Hodgkins) was then called before the board. He stated that it had always been the practice to provide accommodation for a certain number and send away all applicants when the ward was full, the number sent away being regularly reported to the guardians. The master was sharply questioned by several of the guardians, and one asked him how he knew whether the applicants were houseless poor or vagrants; and another, how he made up his returns. To the first question, he said he did not see any distinction between vagrants and "houseless poor;" and, to the other, he said the returns were furnished by the door porter.

This official was then sent for, and, in answer to questions, said he counted the people to whom he refused admission, for very often the ward was full early in the evening, and he told the others left outside they could go away, counting them as he did so. He slept within hearing of the gate, and got up whenever there was a knock, so he could tell the number applying.

The chairman said he had lived in the parish of Bermondsey all his life, and he never saw people about the doors; and he was sure there was a mistake somewhere with respect to the numbers given as turned away; and he was determined to "get at" where the mistake was. With this view, he sharply cross-examined the porter and said he had no doubt the man, in counting those left outside, had counted lookers-on and all; but the porter, in as decided a tone as he could address the chairman of the guardian board, said he knew "his customers" too well to put down any as applying who did not apply.

Another guardian suggested that some of those who were turned away early in the evening came back again and were so entered twice; to which the porter replied that some did come back, saying they had tramped to other places and been refused, and they would rather sit on the door-step all night than go about any more.

The clerk said the casuals were no worse off now, in this parish, than they were under the old law; and, to show this, he read the returns for a week in each year from 1863. In that year, under the old law, 184 were admitted, and 158 refused, in one week. In 1864, under the new law, 155 were admitted, and 70 refused, in a week; and in a week of the present year 178 had been admitted and 116 refused. The worst time, the clerk added, was now over; for at this season there was a falling off in the number of applicants.

After many observations by guardians, the Commissioner said he must tell the guardians that they were bound to give relief to all persons who applied, and whom they did not know to be criminals. The law imposed the obligation upon guardians to find shelter, and food, and clothing, and even medical attendance for the poor, and they could not stop to ask about the character of people who were starving. The law made no distinction between vagrants and houseless, and he told the guardians that the poor must not be permitted to die in the streets or lie in the gutters of this civilised and Christian country. He was extremely anxious that the guardians should understand their position. The winter was coming on, and the poor law, administered by the guardians, would be upon its trial, for it was to be anticipated that the refugees which in previous winters had relieved workhouses of the casual poor in the winter months, and so caused the "falling off" in the number of applicants at this season, as had been noticed, would now be closed, for the law of England was sufficient to provide for the houseless now that the guardians had the duty placed upon them of relieving the houseless. This duty would never be carried out so long as a person was allowed to knock at the doors without having relief.

A guardian asked whether the Act said vagrants were to be relieved.

The Commissioners said the guardians could not avoid the law because there was some little confusion between the words "houseless poor" and "vagrants"; for all who asked for relief were called "houseless." Then the guardians could make those who were strong break stones; and when they saw men willing to break stones in return for such a bed and such food as they got inside the workhouse, it was good proof that the relief was needed.

Several of the guardians here complained that some of the people would not break stones, and that the magistrates sided with the vagrants.

The Commissioner again urged the guardians to obey the law of the land, which, he said, they ought to feel a pleasure in carrying out, as, by obeying it, they were doing the Christian work of saving people from dying in the streets. If the guardians did not do their duty, it was not in the power of the Poor-Law Board to imprison or punish the chairman of the guardians; but it was in their power to punish the guardians' officers, if the poor were neglected.

The Chairman then formally thanked the Commissioner for coming, evidently thinking that the matter was then left for them to deal with; but

The Commissioner went on to ask them what they were going to do, and if they were willing to have tickets printed so that the poor who could not have admission into the casual ward should have lodgings found for them elsewhere.

The Chairman answered this by saying, "Where do you think the relieving officer is to find lodgings for all who apply?"

The Commissioner said that would be the relieving officer's business when the tickets came to him. Would the guardians do their duty, and get the tickets printed?

The Chairman bluntly replied that he would not impose any such duty on the relieving officer.

It was then moved, seconded, and carried *hunc con.*, "That the discussion on the question should be adjourned," and the Commissioner gave the guardians to understand that he should attend the discussion; but he said he wanted to know what would be done in the mean time for the houseless poor. He suggested that they should be taken into one of the workhouse wards, there being room in the workhouse for 700 persons, and only at present 500 inmates; but to this the guardians demurred, some saying they were not going to have people in the workhouse who would not be admitted to common lodgings-houses.

The Commissioner said he left the matter in the hands of the guardians, and they now knew the responsibilities which they were under.

Only one guardian, Mr. Ramsay, spoke in favour of the law being carried out.

A YOUNG WOMAN was burned to death in a fire at Stepney, on Wednesday morning, strenuous efforts to save her being ineffectual.

STRAWBERRIES have been grown this month in the open air at Waterloo, near Liverpool; and in South Wales,

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1865.

POOR-LAW GUARDIANS IN REBELLION.

THE guardians of the poor in Bermondsey have been in open rebellion against the law. They have outdone the Fenians in folly, and more than outdone them in stupid selfishness. This is not the first, but it is the worst, instance in which local Bumbles have attempted to set themselves above law and to disregard alike the obligations incumbent upon them to do their duty and the orders of the Poor-Law Board. The parochial magnates of Marylebone were wont to set at defiance the central poor-law authorities; the guardians of Portsea recently "struck" because Mr. Villiers would not sanction their regaling themselves with tea out of the rates on board days. But it was reserved for the Dogberries of Bermondsey to disobey the plain mandates of the law, and that for no better reason than because they did not choose to carry them out.

It was wont to be a reproach to London, as it must be to any city, that poor, houseless wretches were left to "bide the pelting of the pitiless storm" in the streets; that deaths from cold and hunger were of not unfrequent occurrence in consequence; and that this arose from the inadequacy of the casual wards of the various parishes to meet the demands upon them, and from the difficulty of ascertaining to what particular parish applicants for relief belonged. To obviate this state of things, an Act was passed during last Session of Parliament making it imperative on the guardians of each parish or union to provide sufficient accommodation, and to afford relief to all destitute persons not being amenable to police jurisdiction—in other words, not criminals—who applied for it, irrespective of settlement or any other consideration, save their destitute condition. To make this duty the more light and easy of performance, it was provided that the expense of relieving "the houseless poor" should be borne by the whole metropolis, the Board of Works being authorised to levy a rate for the purpose, and the several parishes which afforded the relief in the first instance being reimbursed from the common fund thus obtained.

Nothing, one would think, could well be plainer than the purpose of this enactment, and nothing fairer than its provisions. The poor-law guardians of Bermondsey, however, were not of this opinion, and determined to set themselves up as better judges than the Legislature as to how, and by whom, the houseless poor are to be cared for; or, rather, if the guardians had their will, not cared for at all. During one week, lately, 327 persons applied for admission to the Bermondsey casual ward, of whom 185 only were received—the other 142 being left to find refuge in other parishes or to pass the night in the streets. These facts were stated in a report from the master to the guardians; and, having attracted the attention of the Poor-Law Board, Mr. Farnall, the Commissioner, was directed to investigate the matter, and accordingly held a meeting with the guardians last week, the proceedings at which are reported in another column. The result was that, after the law and the duty of the parish authorities under it had been clearly and carefully explained, these wiseacres adhered to their resolution neither to provide more accommodation for casual paupers nor to admit them into the workhouse, in which, it appears, there is unoccupied room for 200 persons. Being unable to render a satisfactory reason for their neglect of duty and rebellion against the law, the guardians resolved to adjourn the discussion, hoping, perhaps, to get rid of the affair in this way.

There the matter rested for a week. But of course it could not be allowed to rest there. The Poor-Law Board were not to be trifled with in this manner: and accordingly at the adjourned meeting on Wednesday evening the guardians thought better of it, and agreed to provide sufficient accommodation for the houseless poor as speedily as possible, and in the mean time to appropriate certain unoccupied wards in the workhouse for the purpose. With this arrangement Mr. Farnall expressed himself satisfied, and so this little rebellion collapsed. But the principles involved in the dispute are of lasting importance, and the guardians in Bermondsey and elsewhere will no doubt require careful looking after; especially if it be true, as was insinuated at the meeting on Wed-

nnesday, that other parish officials are as bad as those of Bermondsey—only they have not been found out. Winter is rapidly approaching, and it is not to be tolerated that the homeless poor, whatever may be their character or habits, are to be left to shiver and perish in the streets because poor-law guardians have neither a sense of duty nor bowels of compassion.

The arguments used in defence of the neglect practised in Bermondsey were of the most puerile character, and would provoke mirth, as they must do ridicule and contempt, were not the consequences of so serious a nature. The chairman, Mr. Youngman—whose logical powers must be of a very juvenile order indeed—"had lived all his life in the parish, and had never seen poor persons turned away without relief." Very likely. Mr. Youngman, we dare say, knows better than to leave his warm fireside and mix with the homeless and the destitute at the workhouse door, amid the rain, or frost, or snow of a winter's night. The guardians' clerk produced statistics to prove that the poor were no worse off now than before the passing of the Act of last Session, and fancied, when he had done so, that he had answered the whole charge. No worse off! Why, it was with the express intention that they should be better off that the act was passed. What an addle-headed fool this clerk must be! Other guardians argued that because the houseless poor were often of doubtful character—were, as was said, "vagrants!" "vagabonds!" "ruffians!"—therefore it was not needful that any thought should be taken for them. Many—probably most—of the houseless wretches who wander about the country and clamour at the doors of workhouses are perhaps not altogether saints in their character and demeanour; but that is no reason why they should be left to starve. If all were virtuous, and prudent, and wise, we should have small need of poor laws or poor-law guardians. It is precisely because all men are not wise, prudent, and virtuous that poor laws and kindred institutions are necessary. And it is no excuse for one man, or set of men, neglecting their duty that others have badly performed theirs.

Mr. Farnall is reported to have remarked in the course of the discussion with the Bermondsey guardians that the Poor-Law Board could not punish the guardians for neglecting their duty, but could their officers. This would be both an unjust and an ineffectual way of meeting the difficulty. The officers in Bermondsey seem willing to do their duty if the guardians would allow them; and, probably, the vicarious chastisement of their officers would have as little influence upon them as the punishment inflicted on the "whipping-boy" produced upon the youthful princes of olden times, for whose benefit said "whipping-boy" used to be flagellated. As we can all bear our neighbours' misfortunes with wonderful equanimity, the guardians of Bermondsey would probably smart but little under the castigation inflicted upon their subordinates. We trust that Mr. Villiers possesses full power to bring rebellious and heartless Bumbles to reason; but, if not, the first thing Parliament does on assembling should be to pass an act to give such power, and to increase the authority of the Poor-Law Board generally, and to decrease that of local Bumbledom in Bermondsey and elsewhere.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has sent her annual gift of toys to the sick children in the hospital in Great Ormond-street.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, it is understood, will be invited to accept the mastership of the Trinity House, vacant by the death of Lord Palmerston.

FRANCIS II. is preparing to leave Rome to reside in Austria or Bavaria, in consequence of the departure of the French.

MR. JUSTICE CROMPTON has resigned his seat on the bench in consequence of impaired health.

MR. GLADSTONE is to be presented with the freedom of the city of Glasgow on the 1st proximo.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR FENWICK WILLIAMS has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.

GENERAL McCLELLAN (the Dresden journals state) intends to take up his residence for the winter in that city.

THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION will close on the 9th of November.

THE RIGHT HON. BENJAMIN DISRAEELI is to be brought forward as a candidate for the rectorship of the Edinburgh University, at present held by Mr. Gladstone, who has declined being again put in nomination.

"BELLE BOYD," the Scotch heroine, is studying for the stage under the auspices of one of our cleverest actresses.

MRS. LONGWORTH YELVERTON has lodged an appeal to the House of Lords against the late judgment of the Scottish Court of Session in her case.

GIULINI, THE VOCALIST, has died in the lunatic asylum of Pesaro. He was reduced to a condition of utter idiocy, and had never given the slightest hope that his recovery might have been effected.

M. LOUIS BLANC was married at the Brighton Superintendent Registrar's office on Monday, to Mdile Christina Grob.

A NEW PLANET was discovered by Mr. J. C. Watson, of the Observatory, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U. S., on the 9th inst.

GARIBALDI has declined the nomination to the Italian Parliament offered to him by Turin, and has recommended Signor Botero to the electors.

DR. FRANCIS COOPER, medical officer of health for Southampton, died of cholera in that town, on Tuesday morning.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF RHODEZ, in a pastoral lately issued, speaks of modern philosophy as "guano used by the press for the cultivation of the empty and barren minds of literary and scientific Bootia."

FRESH CASUALTIES are reported from the Yorkshire coast. The gales have been of great severity, and a painful loss of life has been the result.

THE HON. G. DENMAN is likely to be returned for Tiverton without opposition.

THE ROYAL MAIL-STEAMER TRENT, one of the original ships of the Royal Mail Company, and which has been running for nearly a quarter of a century, has just been sold for £4000.

THE TOURISTS IN SWITZERLAND have this year numbered 11,780—chiefly English, and are computed to have left about £48,000 in the country.

THE EVICTIONS OF PITMEN from their cottages at Cramlington continue. About one hundred families have been turned adrift, and double that number are yet to be dealt with.

THE BARQUE EDWIN, arrived at New York, in lat. 52°, long. 34° 48', a red buoy marked "Telegraph," No. 3, or "5." The red flag was nearly gone, and the captain of the Edwin believed the buoy was loose from the cable.

SEVERAL FINE ROACH have been taken within the last few days in the Thames, near Westminster Bridge. This is regarded as a proof of the greater purity of the river consequent on the completion of the main-drainage works. A large porpoise has also been disporting himself in the river in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith, Barnes, and Putney within the last few days.

THE REMAINS OF A ROMAN BRIDGE have been discovered near Coblenz, on the left side of the bed of the Moselle, close to the bridge of Baudouin. These remains consist of seven strong piles of oak, from 8 ft. to 9 ft. long, and from 14 in. to 18 in. in diameter, and are provided at the bottom with iron coverings 1 ft. long.

LORD DERBY is to be put in nomination by the Conservatives for the Lord Rectorship of Glasgow University, vacant by the death of Lord Palmerston. Mr. John Stuart Mill, M.P., is to be brought forward by the Liberals.

DR. GUTHRIE has resigned the co-pastorate of Free St. John's Church, Edinburgh.

CAPTAIN CAMERON, the English Consul, is still detained a prisoner in Abyssinia, and suffers much. In two years his hair has turned from black to perfect white. His legs are swollen, and he is altogether in a very bad way.

A CLERGYMAN, the other Sunday, in a Scotch county town, announced to his flock:—"There is to be a missionary meeting this evening in School. I do not mean those who are here to attend, as this meeting is intended for those who have no clothes; and if any of you were to appear it would put them in an awkward position."

THE BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES EXHIBITION was closed, on Saturday evening, after a most successful season. 120,000 persons in all visited the Exhibition, and the committee have in hand a surplus of £1000, which they propose to divide among the charitable institutions of Birmingham.

THE GARDEN OF ACCLIMATISATION AT PARIS has just received a hen ostrich, fifteen months old, bred at Grenoble, and four chickens hatched at Algiers. The ostriches in domestic life are quite farmyard birds; they lay, sit, and bring up their young like ordinary fowls.

VARDY, the pilot of the unfortunate coolie ship Eagle Speed, recently lost near Calcutta, has been sentenced to dismissal from service by a marine court "for unskillfulness, ignorance, negligence, or inattention" when in charge of the vessel, and for "unnecessarily abandoning to their fate" the emigrants after the ship became a wreck.

A MAN NAMED BARTON was thrown into the furnace of a coalpit near Wigan nearly three years ago, and was entirely consumed. Although a large reward was offered, no trace of the murderer was discovered until the other day, when a prisoner in Warwick Gaol, undergoing sentence for house-breaking, confessed to the governor that he had committed the crime for the sake of some whisky.

DR. MUDD, who was sentenced to imprisonment for life for assisting in the escape of Booth, the assassin, recently made an attempt to escape from the dry Tortugas. He was found secreted in the coal-bunkers of the steamer Thomas Scott, and was covered with coal-dust, into which an officer thrust his sword, producing a cry of pain from the concealed man. Mudd was put to hard labour, wheeling sand.

A NEWLY-INVENTED RUDDER has been tried with success at Havre; it is composed of four pieces, connected by hinges, in place of one solid piece. By means of these joints, the rudder when set in motion by the tiller presents a curved surface to the water in place of a flat surface. The object is to give both a greater flexibility and a stronger action to the rudder.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING IN THE CHAMPS ELYSEES, Paris, which is now occupied with the exposition of arts as applied to industry, is destined shortly to contain other gatherings of the animal and vegetable world. For example, there is to be a horse show, at which several countries, including Russia, are invited to compete for prizes. Then there is to be an exhibition of poultry, and finally of cheese.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

It is supposed that extensive changes will not be made in the Ministry at present. Earl Russell will be First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister, of course, and Lord Clarendon will take the Foreign Office. The *Times* says that this arrangement can be only provisional, and I should think so; for such an arrangement cannot be satisfactory to the House of Commons. Last year ominous complaints were heard that the three principal departments of the State—the Foreign Office, the War Office, and the Admiralty—were represented in the Lower House by Under Secretaries; but the Prime Minister, who had presided over two of those departments, and knew more about them than any other man living, was there at that time. If, then, the House of Commons was dissatisfied with that arrangement, what will it think of this, which, in addition to three of the principal Secretaries of State, will give the Premier to the House of Lords? And then we have to remember who are the Under Secretaries in the House of Commons who represent the War Office, the Foreign Department, and the Admiralty. Lord Hartington is Under Secretary for War; and, considering his inexperience when he took this important post, in 1863, he has conducted the business surprisingly well; but Lord Palmerston had often come to his aid when he was severely pressed by the Opposition; and, moreover, his Lordship is not a good speaker, and on one occasion, when the case of Captain Dawkins was before the House, had to confess that his knowledge of the case was but hazy. General Peel loudly complained on this occasion that the Chief Secretary was not in the House. Mr. Layard, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is a clever man, and has very much improved of late in his manner of addressing the House; and, on the whole, he has lately done his work reasonably well. But it must be remembered that, really, Lord Palmerston represented the Foreign Office; and whenever any important question of foreign policy turned up, Lord Palmerston naturally took the matter into his own hands. Mr. Layard, clever as he is, without Lord Palmerston, cannot be considered a satisfactory representative of the Foreign Office in the House of Commons. Of Lord Clarence Paget, the Secretary of the Admiralty, I need say nothing, as it is unlikely that any arrangement will supersede the Duke of Somerset and bring a First Lord into the House. Besides, Lord Clarence has always had, and will have again, a Civil Lord to help him in his work.

But how is this evil to be remedied? Earl Russell sees it, no doubt; but I question whether his sagacity has discovered a remedy. The fact is there is a dearth of men on the Liberal side of the house fit to take the highest offices. Death and elevations to the House of Lords have deprived us of a large number of our eminent members during the last decade. Ten years ago we had Sir James Graham, Sir George Cornwall Lewis, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Lord John Russell, Sir William Molesworth, and Lord Palmerston, with others useful, though not, perhaps, eminent, all in, or available for, office. Now, who have we got? Except those who occupy the Treasury bench, we have very few. There is Mr. Edward Bouvier. He is an able man, and has had some training, both at the Home Office and at the Poor-Law Board; and I should not be surprised to see him Secretary of State for the Home Department. Sir George Grey then would be free to take some other office. Mr. Edward Forster is said to be not unwilling to join the Government. He would make a very good President of the Board of Trade or President of the Poor-Law Board. Mr. Goschen, too, has been mentioned as likely to take office. Mr. Robert Lowe has, I fear, by that anti-reform speech of his delivered last Session, shut and barred the door of office against himself. Government must, sooner or later, propose a reform bill; and it would seem to be impossible that Mr. Lowe can consent to help to carry it. But it is useless to speculate; we must wait. The only changes to be made now, rumour says, are—Earl Russell to be First Lord of the Treasury, Earl Clarendon to go to the Foreign Office, and some one found to take the Duchy of Lancaster in place of Earl Clarendon. Rumour says still that Lord Enfield will be Civil Lord of the Admiralty, in place of Mr. Childers; but I hear, on good authority, that he has positively declined to leave the Poor-Law Board. He is in no humour to go to his constituents again, having met them so lately. The changes alluded to above will call for no one to vacate his seat. A member of the House of Commons may be selected to take the chancellorship of the duchy, but the acceptance of this office does not involve an appeal to constituents.

There are changes amongst the lawyers talked about. Sir Robert Collier, Solicitor-General, is to be a Puisne Judge, in place of Sir Charles Crompton, resigned; and Mr. George Denman, if he should get elected for Tiverton, is to be Solicitor-General. Rumour also whispers that Lord Cranworth will speedily resign the Great Seal, and make room for Sir John Romilly. And I should not be surprised if this prophecy of Rumour's should be fulfilled, for Cranworth is seventy-five years old, and the Russells and the Romillys are connected by marriage.

With Earl Russell Premier, and Gladstone leader of the House of Commons, it is said that we must have a reform bill next Session. I confess I am not prepared confidently to predict that the Ministry will fulfil these expectations. I am rather inclined to think that they will, if possible, postpone the question of Reform until the Session of 1867. But if the confident predictions of a portion of the Liberal press should be fulfilled, then, gentlemen of the House of Commons, you may expect a much longer and more laborious Session than I

foresee last week when I wrote. To ascertain the possible of the future let us look into the past. In 1830 Parliament met in February. It was dissolved July 24 in the same year; reassembled Oct. 20, prorogued Dec. 22; met again Feb. 3, 1831, dissolved April 23; reassembled June 21, prorogued Oct. 20; met again Dec. 6, adjourned Dec. 10 to Jan. 7, 1832; and, the Reform Bill having received the Royal assent, Parliament was prorogued on the 5th of June. Long Sessions these. And the sittings were long, too. Occasionally the House sat on Saturdays, and on the second reading of the second Reform Bill it divided on Sunday morning, whilst on several occasions it sat on till past four o'clock, a.m.; and on the question that the bill do now pass the division did not take place until past five.

We may be sure, though, that a Reform Bill will be one of the items in the programme of the Ministry which Earl Russell is now constructing. Gladstone is as good as pledged to Reform. Mr. Milner Gibson and Mr. Villiers are Radicals, and, of course, must support Reform. Earl De Grey and Ripon, since he has been a peer of the realm and Secretary for War, has been silent on the subject. When he was Lord Goderich he was thought to be Radical—certainly he was Reformer; but Radicalism never flourishes vigorously in very high latitudes, and especially must the cold, aristocratic region of the War Office be unfavourable to its growth. Nevertheless, he too, I think, must be classed amongst the reforming members of the Cabinet. Neither must we decide that Earl Russell, the head of the Government, has renounced his opinion that a further advance in the extension of the suffrage is desirable. True, he announced thirty-four years ago that the Reform Act then passed was a final measure, and got the sobriquet of "Finality John" therefore. He has, however, long since abandoned this position—has, indeed, proposed two reform bills since then; and though he abandoned his second so coldly, and with such indifference that he provoked the witty remark from Sir Bulwer Lytton that the noble Lord seemed as if he had "come to bury Caesar, not to praise him," he, we must remember, all but wept when he was compelled, by the outbreak of the Crimean War, to withdraw his first. So let us strike a balance, setting his sorrow over the death of his first against his coldness when he abandoned his second. But what of his "rest-and-be-thankful" speech? Did not that indicate that he has finally determined to have nothing more to do with reform bills? Well, on this subject hear the noble Lord himself. In the preface to the new edition of his "Essay on the English Government and Constitution," published in 1865, he thus explains this phrase:—"I remarked," he says, in a speech in Scotland, "that the people seemed to have adopted a motto inscribed on a stone at the side of the road at the top of one of their Scotch mountains, 'Rest and be thankful.' I added that, for my part, I was not disposed to quarrel with that feeling at that time; although, doubtless, there were other hills to be climbed and other roads to be made." It was sufficiently obvious, I thought, without my pointing out, that neither the road-maker nor the traveller when he had got to the top of the hill, though he may rest his weary limbs and contemplate for a time with gratitude and admiration the space he has travelled and the prospect around him, thinks of making a perpetual bivouac on the summit he has reached. He may hope, indeed, that his future course may be less arduous, the rocks less steep, the torrent less difficult to traverse, the marsh less unsafe to tread; but he will still move on after his period of repose, and pursue his journey all the more confident in his path from the success he has already achieved." This speech, then, was no renunciation of his opinions on Reform; on the contrary, it was a renewal of his pledges to move on. Indeed, Earl Russell does not even express a wish that he may be allowed to "rest and be thankful," but excuses the people for so wishing. We have, then, at least five Cabinet Ministers more or less pledged to Reform; and, for anything that we know to the contrary, nobody in the Ministry against it. We must, then, I conceive, sooner or later have a reform bill; nor does Earl Russell expect very serious opposition to this onward movement "after repose," for, hear him again:—"But, to drop the metaphor," he says, on the next page, "it seems no violent assumption to suppose that, after overcoming, in 1832, the strength of resistance armed with legislative power in the boroughs disfranchised by the Reform Act; the force of religious prejudices entrenched in the Acts which excluded Roman Catholics, Protestant Dissenters, and Jews from the privileges of the Constitution; the powerful combination of interests which guarded the corn laws and all other monopolies—that, after the victorious issue of all these contests, the remaining struggles with selfishness and ignorance will not offer the same difficulties nor be achieved with the same hazards. I speak, of course, in the expectation that no great organic changes are to be attempted by any considerable party in the State." Moderate reform, then, will sooner or later be the order of the day, which will, in the opinion of Earl Russell, be carried without much difficulty. Questionable that, my Lord, I think; but we shall see.

As there is a good deal of misconception in people's minds as to the grounds on which the music licenses of such places as the Hanover-square Rooms, St. Martin's Hall, &c., have been questioned, I may, perhaps, be permitted to send you the following extract from the Act. (25 Geo. II, cap. 36) for the licensing of places for music and dancing in and twenty miles round London, which bears upon the point:—

In case of any breach of either of the said conditions (not having notice of being licensed over the door or entrance, and not to be opened before five p.m.) such license shall be forfeited, and shall be revoked by the justices, and shall not be renewed; nor shall any new license be granted to the same person or persons, or any other person in his or their or any of their behalf, or for their use or benefit, directly or indirectly.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

At a maiden asse, as you are aware, it is the custom for a Judge to receive a pair of white gloves from the Sheriff; and if you, my dear Mr. Editor, take this custom for a precedent, which I strongly advise, you will send me a pair of white kid gloves, for this has been a "maiden week" at the London theatres, no new piece having been brought to the bar of public opinion. Your Lounger's occupation is gone, too—until the next novelty. I have seen nothing—because there has been nothing to be seen—permit me, therefore, to tell you what I hear.

I hear that the majority of the theatres are doing well, and that a pupil of Mrs. Stirling—a Miss Emilie de Vigne—has made a most successful début as Rachel Heywood, in Douglas Jerrold's drama of "The Rent Day," at the VICTORIA.

I know that the PRINCE OF WALES'S Theatre has been well-attended since its opening—and I speak as to the quality as well as the quantity of the audiences. Miss Marie Wilton's little playhouse will soon be an established fashion. The charming little comedy of "Naval Engagements" is admirably acted there, and the burlesque of "Lucia di Lammermoor" is becoming a rage. Mr. Byron's comedy of "War to the Knife" is to be revived on Monday.

EGYPTIAN HALL—Colonel Stodare, magician and ventriloquist, who lately introduced the Indian Basket Trick to the Piccadilly public—has added another attraction to his exhibition. The Sphinx is now to be seen nightly. Scholars must not suppose that the Sphinx at the Egyptian Hall is a realisation of the singular nondescript which, in conjunction with Oedipus, formed the basis of Sophocles' wonderful tragedy. Colonel Stodare's Sphinx is well tamed; and if it masticates, which is not improbable, it eats cooked beef and mutton, and not raw man. It is confined in a small, square, green box, which, when placed upon a table and opened, reveals a human head detached from a body. This head, which to all appearance is mechanical, at the word of command opens its eyes, moves from right to left—an extraordinary feat when we consider that it is accomplished without the assistance of a neck—and then smiles. After this relaxation of the facial muscles, it suddenly seems to remember it is a Sphinx, and is bound to behave as such, and becomes rigid. It then delivers prophecies, after the manner of the Brazen Head in "Valentine and Orson," and recites verses; after which the box is closed and the Sphinx is seen no more. The voice is marvellously produced, and the illusion is a remarkably clever one, and will doubtless attract many thousands of visitors to the dextrous Colonel's exhibition.

NEW ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

THE extension of the railway termini at London Bridge having rendered necessary the removal of St. Thomas's Hospital, the old site was sold to the railway authorities, and the governors set themselves to work to find a new one. After several sites had been proposed and rejected it was determined to erect the new hospital at the upper side of Westminster Bridge, on the south side of the river, opposite the Houses of Parliament, and on ground, a large portion of which has to be reclaimed from the stream by the southern embankment. The plans of the new building having been prepared by Mr. Henry Currey, architect, and approved by the governors, operations are forthwith to be commenced for preparing the site for the hospital. The Metropolitan Board of Works have let the contract for the embankment to Mr. Webster, one condition of the contract being that the hospital site shall be inclosed with a dry dam in nine months, when building operations will be commenced. We give an Engraving this week representing the river front of the building as designed by Mr. Currey, and the subjoined descriptive particulars, which we have derived mainly from our contemporary the *Builder*. The new hospital, which will extend 1200 ft. along the river, comes close up to Westminster Bridge, and shows towards the river seven separate blocks, four stories above ground, connected by corridors and service buildings, the pavilion principle being adopted. The pavilions are placed at a distance of 125 ft. from each other—the centre court being increased to 200 ft., which distance will admit of ample sunlight and air to every block.

The wards are designed to be 28 ft. in width by 120 ft. in length, and 15 ft. in height, and will accommodate each twenty-eight beds, giving a cubic capacity for each patient of 1800 ft. The beds are placed at distances of 8 ft. from centre to centre, and the windows are arranged alternately with the beds, at a level, to enable a patient to look out of them. Small wards for two beds, immediately contiguous to, but not communicating with, the general wards, are provided in each block for the reception of special cases, which it may be deemed desirable to separate from the other patients. These wards also afford a cubic capacity of 1800 ft. per bed, or of 3600 ft. when used for a single patient. On the other side of the passage are placed the sisters' room, the ward kitchen, and a room for the medical officers' consultation. The well-holes of the staircase are occupied by large lifts and ventilating-shafts.

The lavatories, bath-rooms, &c., attached to each ward are projected from the main building, and are cut off from the ward by intercepting lobbies, with windows on both sides.

The main hospital may be said to commence on the first floor, and consists of three tiers of wards, there being four smaller wards provided on the ground floor for the reception of accident patients. The total accommodation afforded will be 588 beds.

The general entrance to the hospital is placed in the centre, and will be approached from the Palace New-road. The entrance-hall is spacious, forming the substructure of the chapel. The steward's, or superintendent's, offices are placed immediately in front of the entrance-hall, so that everything passing in and out of the hospital will be under his supervision. From each side of the entrance-hall branch off the main corridors of communication, connecting all the different departments.

The ground floor of the first pavilion, to the right, is appropriated to the kitchen department, as being as nearly central as possible. It comprises kitchen, scullery, and cooks' rooms, with larder, bread-room, &c., on the basement immediately under. A serving-place is provided, where the patients' food would be distributed; it will then pass along the corridor to the different pavilions, and be conveyed up the small lifts to the several stories or wards.

The ground floor of the first pavilion, to the left, is appropriated to the matron's department, with a commodious room for linen stores. The basement of this wing is appropriated for matron's extra stores, and for day and dining rooms for the Nightingale probationer nurses.

On the right of the entrance-hall is placed the principal staircase, which leads direct to the corridor on the one-pair story. It communicates directly with the resident medical officers' apartments, which are placed in the central block, and consist of sixteen rooms, including a common room and another for the use of the medical and surgical staff of the hospital, the exact position of which may be hereafter determined, as convenience may dictate. Two operating theatres are provided, communicating with the corridors, of ample dimensions, to admit of a large attendance of pupils. A private room is attached to each theatre for the operator, with a second room in which the patient may be temporarily placed after an operation.

The dispensary and surgery are placed in the main corridor (the medicines and appliances being conveyed by the small lifts to the various wards), and the out-patients are supplied from the opposite side. The laboratory, the drug examination and store rooms, are provided, where the patients' food would be distributed; it will then pass along the corridor to the different pavilions, and be conveyed up the small lifts to the several stories or wards.

All applicants for relief at the hospital would enter at the covered porch in Palace New-road, near to Crosier-street, and would be received in one of the admission-rooms, according to sex. They would be then informed whether they would be admitted into the hospital or be treated as "casualty patients" or as "out-patients." If admitted, they would be passed through the hospital corridor to the wards.

The administration block is placed at the Westminster Bridge end, approached from the bridge. The one-pair story, which may be called the bridge level, is designed to provide entrance-hall and principal staircase, waiting-room, counting-house, receiver's room, strong-room, almoner's room, and a suite of unappropriated offices. On the next floor is provided the governors' hall and committee-room, with waiting-rooms, &c., the remainder of the block being appropriated to the treasurer's residence. A staircase leads direct from the treasurer's house to the main corridor of the hospital. The two lower stories of this block are appropriated as residences for three porters, and for the domestic offices of the treasurer's house. A kitchen is also provided for serving the dinners to the governor's hall, without interference with the hospital kitchen. A fourth porter's residence is provided in the lower story of the extreme southermost block.

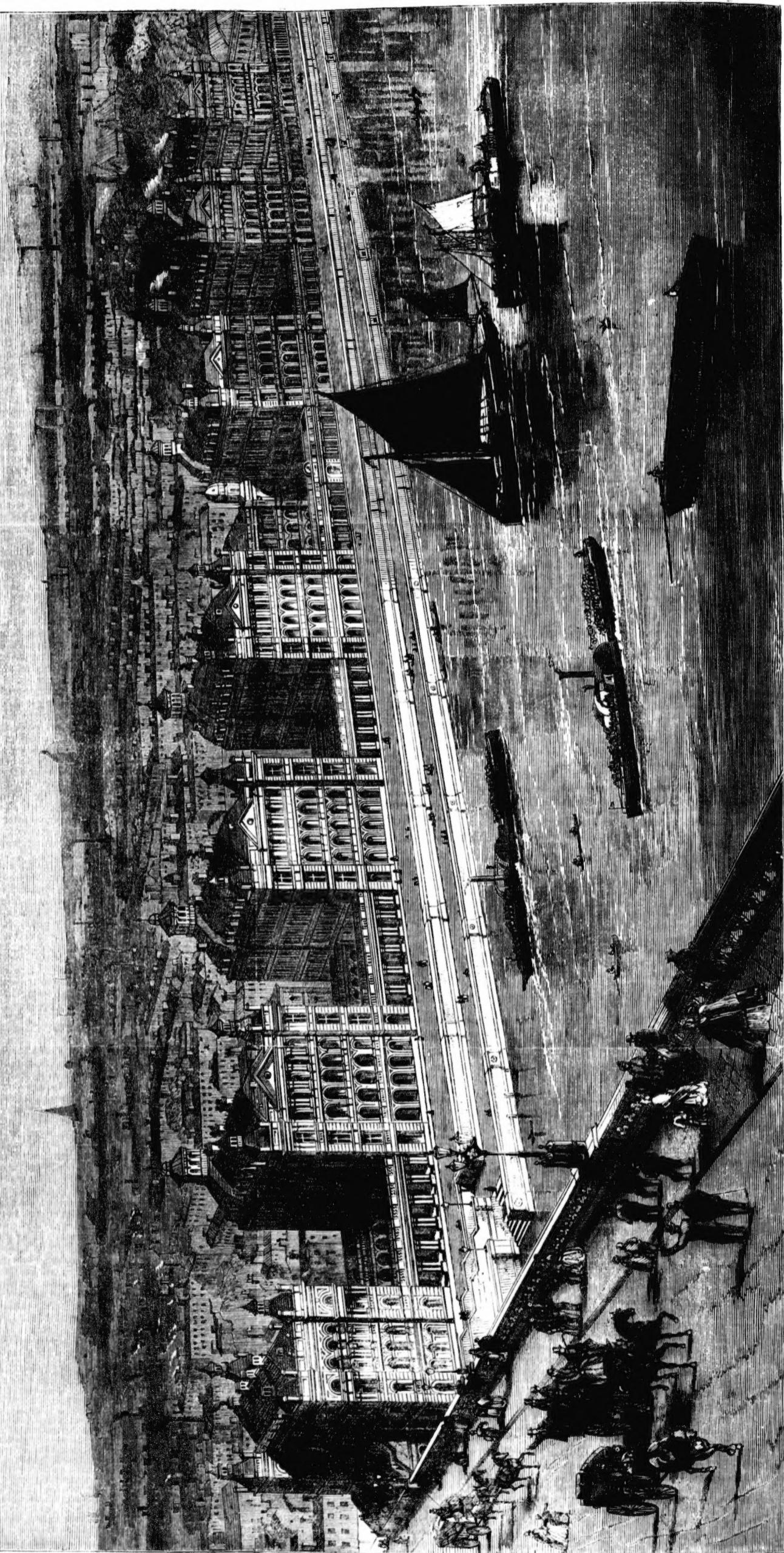
Four houses are provided for the resident officers, containing eight rooms each, exclusive of domestic offices. They are approached from the Palace New-road, and communicate in the rear with the main corridors of the hospital.

The chapel, in the centre of the building, is designed to give 300 sittings. The museums, school buildings, lecture theatres, &c., are proposed to be placed at the southern end of the ground. The warming is intended to be effected by open fireplaces, aided in cold weather by an auxiliary system of hot water.

The building is to have fireproof floors throughout, formed with wrought and rolled iron joists and concrete. The floors will be of oak, and the wall-surfaces finished with Keene's or Parian cement. The terrace towards the river is proposed to be kept 4 ft. above the public footway. This, with the height of the parapet (3 ft. 6 in.), will prevent any overlooking by the public.

The whole building, or, rather, pile of buildings, will probably be faced with stone, and the cost in that case is estimated at £360,000.

DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN VILLA NEAR BATH.—Further evidence of the Roman occupation in the neighbourhood of Bath has lately come to light. A field in Wick parish, by the inequalities of its surface, has long been looked upon as one likely to reward the antiquary in his researches. During the last ten days excavations have been carried on here under the auspices, and at the expense, of the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club, with very satisfactory results. A considerable portion of a very extensive Roman villa has been uncovered, and the plan of the two hypocausts and the foundation-walls of several rooms taken by Mr. Irvine. From the extent and massiveness of some of the main walls it appears to have been a villa of considerable importance. A great quantity of roofing-tiles, made of "pennant" stone, broken pieces of black, brown, and red pottery, a few bits of Samian ware, large and small headed nails (the latter used in roofing), portions of the antlers of the large deer, bits of fine, wavy glass, coins of the lower empire, and many other objects of interest have been found, all which will be deposited at the Literary Institution.



THE NEW ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—(HENRY CURRY, ARCHITECT.)



THE LATE LORD PALMERSTON.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH LATELY TAKEN BY MESSRS. WALKER, MARGARET-STREET, W.)

THE LAST OF THE TEMPLES.

(From the *Pall Mall Gazette*).

Of many interesting points about the late Premier, one was that he was the last representative of an ancient and remarkable English family. The senior line of his house, that of the Temples of Stowe, was absorbed about the middle of the last century by the Grenvilles, and still gives one of its family names to the ducal race of Buckingham. The junior and more distinguished line ended with the third Viscount Palmerston, who has just passed away; and a retrospective glance at its history will show that he was essentially its child in intellect and character. We need not waste many words on the story which makes the Temples descend from Leofric, Earl of Chester, the husband of Godiva. When Swift wrote the life of Sir William Temple, the family claimed "to have come in with the Conquest." A century earlier, when Burton, elder brother of the author of the "Anatomy of Melancholy," wrote the "Description of Leicestershire," the legend of their Saxon origin was equally unknown. "This land," says Burton, speaking of "Temple," in the hundred of Sparkenhoe, not far from Bosworth, "was granted by one of the old Earls of Leicester to the Knights Templars;" and he tells us that it was "afterwards granted to a family of this place called Temple, being of great account in those parts." Whether they were Normans or Saxons nobody can say: the former supposition is even more probable than the latter. But they were certainly landholders in the time of Henry III., when Robertus Temple de Temple held the estates

in question; and their marriages are on record since Edward I., in whose reign Henricus Temple allied himself with Matilda, daughter of John Ribbesford. The descendants of this pair called themselves Temple of Temple Hall, and were substantial Leicestershire gentry, with arms on their monuments in the churches, traceable in authentic deeds, and duly recorded in the Visitation of Leicestershire (Harr. MS. 1189) made under the direction of the famous Camden, when Clarenceux. Five generations after the Henricus Temple last mentioned—that is to say, in the reign of Henry VI.—Thomas Temple, a third son of the then chief, settled at Whitney, in Oxfordshire. His descendant acquired Stowe in the sixteenth century; and from the marriage of Peter Temple, of Stowe, with Millicent Jekyll, came an elder brother, who carried on the Stowe line, and a second, Anthony, the progenitor of the Lords Palmerston. At this point the intellectual history of the family begins. Hitherto they had lived, like others of their rank, doing their local and public duties with little but local distinction. The era, long rooted in the vigorous soil of feudalism, now began to flower into fame.

William, son of Anthony Temple, of whom we have just spoken, became secretary to Sir Philip Sydney. He had been educated at Cambridge, had written some Latin essays which attracted Sir Philip's attention, and was taken into the service of that famous gentleman, who died in his arms. Sydney left Temple an annuity of £30 for life, and commended him on his death-bed to the Earl of Essex. The confidant of Sydney became the confidant of

Devereux; and, when his second patron lost his life, sought employment in Ireland. He was made Provost of Dublin College, which he represented in the Irish Parliament. He was also a Master in Chancery; and he ended his days in Dublin, in 1626. What his essays were like we have now no means of knowing; but that Sydney admired him may answer for his talents, and that Sydney loved him for his character. The friendship of the Sydneys was extended to his son John, a man of still greater distinction. This John Temple was educated at Dublin; travelled, and was attached to the Court of Charles the First, by whom he was knighted. He was with the King when he marched against the Scots; and there are letters of his to the second Earl of Leicester (Sydney's nephew) from Berwick. Leicester was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland when the Irish Rebellion broke out, and Temple enjoyed much of his confidence. In 1646 Sir John published a "History of the Irish Rebellion," which is still curious for its facts, and not unreadable for its style, considering that the era of easy prose had not yet begun. The Palmerstons are sometimes talked of as an Irish family; but Sir John's book is written from the point of view of a thorough Englishman, and the Temples never became Irish in any proper sense. Speaking of the efforts made by Queen Elizabeth to civilise the island, he has the following passage:—"But all was in vain; the matter then wrought upon was not susceptible of any such noble forms; those ways were heterogeneous, and had no manner of influence upon the perverse disposition of the Irish. The malignant impressions of irreligion and barbarism transmitted down, whether by

infusion from their ancestors or natural generation, had irrefragably stiffened their necks and hardened their hearts against all the most powerful efforts of reformation."

He regarded himself, in short, as one of the governing or conquering race among an imperfectly conquered people. And his wife was an Englishwoman—a sister of Dr. Hammond, the celebrated divine. She died at Penshurst, and a letter of Temple's to the Earl of Leicester contains a reference to the event, showing that he was a warm-hearted man. "Your Penshurst," he writes, "was the place where God saw fit to take from me the desire of mine eyes, and the most sweet companion of my life."

Sir John Temple was a Royalist by inclination and connection, but he steered his way through the civil war so as not to be an extreme man on either side. He acted, after 1644, with the Parliament, and held appointments under them, but was dismissed for voting that the King's proposals for peace from the Isle of Wight were satisfactory. Afterwards he served Cromwell, and received favours from him; but he also prospered after the Restoration, and died prosperous, in 1677. The family type comes out very distinct in Sir John—a shrewd, wary man, good at business, practical in life and affairs, not without literary talent and scholarly taste, of kindly nature, and apt to attach to himself those who came in contact with him. In his eldest son, the far more famous Sir William Temple—the great "illustration" of the family, to borrow the French word—the same qualities are found in more brilliant development but in less happy proportion. His success as a diplomatist in great negotiations, his popularity as a writer, sufficiently establish his talents; and if his writings are less generally esteemed than they used to be, that is because critics dwell rather on his light essays—written before Addison and Steele had carried the essay to perfection—than on that book of his on the Netherlands, which is a text-book among Dutch students to this day. But political disappointments soured his temper, and was helped to do so by the gout, which had come to him, he says, "from many ancestors." Yet he "had an extraordinary spirit and life in his humour," Swift tells us, "with so agreeable turns of wit and fancy in his conversation, that nobody was welcome in all sorts of company." The worldliness, common-sense, and pleasantness scattered up and down his miscellanies often make a reader think of the autumnal and after-dinner speeches of the late Viscount; but he had two favourite notions which his collateral descendant lived to refute. He thought that every man deteriorated after fifty, and that no man was fit for anything after having had the gout. In spite, however, of gout and disappointments, the natural toughness of the stock carried him on to his seventieth year.

Sir William Temple left no descendants, and the line was carried on by his brother John, described as "the best lawyer in Ireland," who was Solicitor-General when quite young and Speaker of the Irish House of Commons before he was thirty. To the family talent he added the family geniality, and was always popular. He was Attorney-General in 1684, and passed his last years in East Sheen, Surrey, where he had bought a seat. It was his son Henry who was made Viscount Palmerston, by George I., in 1722. In the preamble of the patent he is said to be "praeciariorum majoribus," and it is added that his father and grandfather "mune-ribus in Hibernia publicis . . . fide, prudentia, et abstinentia, functi sunt." The son of the first Viscount died during the lifetime of his father (which extended to the great age of eighty-four years), and lies buried, as three generations of the family all do, in the old church of Mortlake. His son succeeded to the peerage of his long-lived grandfather, and was the Viscount Palmerston known to Dr. Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and Madame D'Arblay—a genuine Temple, evidently, but with the lighter qualities of the line in larger proportion than the solid ones. There has been some romantic gossip about his second marriage, the marriage from which the great statesman came. But the following extracts from that respectable authority, the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in its number for January, 1783, makes it appear to have been sufficiently respectable:—"At Bath, Lord Viscount Palmerston, of Ireland, M.P. for Hastings, to Miss Mary Mee, second daughter of the late Benjamin Mee, Esq., and sister of Benjamin Mee, Esq., one of the directors of the bank."

In reviewing the little family history thus sketched, the general results which strike one are that Lord Palmerston came from a family of very ancient gentry, never connected, as far as his branch went, with what is called aristocracy, and generally allied by marriage with the middle class; that it was a thoroughly English family in spite of its Irish employments, connected with England by property, and in almost every case marrying English wives; that it has enjoyed nearly uninterrupted intellectual distinction for 300 years; and that there has been a pervading likeness of character in the line all through. Practical statesmen or lawyers; always fond of literature, and sometimes famous in it; successful men of the world, and worldly, but kind-hearted, genial, and capable of high feeling; tough in constitution in spite of gout, and, for the most part, long-lived—the Temples were the natural forerunners and producers of the veteran who is just about to be laid in his grave. The old tree seems to have put forth all its force for one last crop, and to have concentrated all its hereditary qualities in the tough bit of fruit which has fallen so ripe and yet so sound in surface and at core.

OUR PORTRAIT OF LORD PALMERSTON.

THE portrait of the late lamented Premier which we this week publish is from a photograph by Messrs. Walker, of Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, and is believed to be the last for which the noble Lord sat. The photograph is considered by Lady Palmerston and the family to be exceedingly good, and since the death of the original, Messrs. Walker have had orders for additional copies. His Lordship went almost straight from the dentist's, where he had been getting a new set of teeth put in, to the artist. This dental operation prevented the under lip from hanging down; and Messrs. Walker's portrait is the only one with this feature, and all the noble Lord's friends declared that this alteration in the arrangement of the mouth made him look ten years younger.

ECLIPSES IN 1866.—In the year 1866 there will be three eclipses of the sun—namely, on March 16 and April 15, both of which are invisible from Europe; the third will take place on Oct. 8, and is partly visible, as the sun will be eclipsed at the time of sunset. There are two eclipses of the moon—namely, on March 31 and on Sept. 24. The former occurs early in the morning, and the latter invisible from Europe. The first solar eclipse will take place on March 16, and will be visible from a part of North America. The second eclipse of the year is that of the moon, on the morning of March 31, visible from England. The third eclipse is of the sun; greatest phase April 25, visible from Australia and the Southern Ocean. The fourth eclipse is of the moon, Sept. 24; it is total; it is invisible from England. The fifth and last of the year is a partial eclipse of the sun on Oct. 8; it begins at twenty-six minutes after four in the afternoon.

THE CAISTOR LIFE-BOAT.—The life-boat men at Caistor, near Great Yarmouth, have just sent £10 to the National Life-boat Institution. These brave men have been afloat since 1858 in their life-boat twenty-three times on service, and have saved 135 lives from shipwreck, besides helping to bring four disabled vessels to harbour. The life-boat which has done such noble work is now unfit for further service, and on Wednesday last she was replaced by a magnificent new life-boat, 43 ft. long, the gift of the working people of Birmingham to the National Life-boat Institution. They had previously given the society the expense of the life-boat at Sutton, on the Lincolnshire coast. On Wednesday a deputation from Birmingham attended at the launch of the new life-boat at Caistor.

A SLY WIDOWER.—A rich old widower in Canada is said to have practised a very artful scheme to gain the hand of the belle of the village. He got an old gipsy to tell the young lady's fortune in words which he dictated as follows:—"My dear young lady, your star will soon be hid for a short time by a very dark cloud, but when it reappears it will continue to shine with uninterrupted splendour until the end of your days. Before one week, a wealthy old widower, wearing a suit of black and a fine castor hat, will pay you a visit and request your hand in marriage. You will accept his offer, become his wife, and be left a widow in possession of all his property before the close of this year. Your next husband will be the young man of whom you think most at present." Three days after, the old gentleman, dressed in the manner described by the gipsy, presented himself to the young lady, and the marriage followed. The year is more than out, but the tough old widower still lingers.

THE PARKS OF LONDON.

THE minor parks, although as yet less known to the general public, are, if possible, more appreciated in their respective neighbourhoods than their senior rivals. Battersea and Kennington Parks, as well as the new grounds at Chelsea Hospital, are all under the management of Mr. Gibson, who had been previously for some years at Victoria Park, and before that at Chatsworth. The site of Battersea Park consisted, prior to its formation, of small freeholds and "Lammas" land. In lieu of the latter, a Lammas-hall has been erected in Battersea; this serves as parochial offices, and also affords accommodation for concerts, scientific lectures, &c. The situation was very flat, and was occasionally overflowed by the Thames at spring tides. It was, therefore, necessarily intersected by open drains, such as are seen on the Fens, but which here serve as sewers likewise. During the summer months the place used to be the habitual resort of gypsies. Gambling of every sort bade defiance to the authorities, and gradually increasing, became at last a public disgrace. The idea, therefore, of converting a hotbed of vice into a handsome park was well conceived. The unfavourable nature of the ground for the object proposed caused great opposition to be made to it, but eventually an Act of Parliament was passed and steps at once taken for its formation into a park in 1846. Before it was fit even to walk upon it was necessary to raise the entire surface. Fortunately, about this time the London Docks (Victoria) Extension was commenced. It was necessary to excavate and remove thence to a distance immense quantities of earth, which were gladly received at Battersea-fields; and from this and other sources not less than 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth have been deposited on this site. This, of course, occupied several years, and the actual formation of the park could not be commenced till 1856; the drives, walks, and ornamental lake were then laid out and formed; the planting began in 1857, and was nearly completed in the following year. Up to this time the works were executed under Mr. Pennethorne, architect of the Office of Works, when the present superintendent was appointed to take charge of and complete the unfinished works. Since then large quantities of earth have been deposited and formed into undulating mounds and banks, and several acres have been in this manner reclaimed along the banks of the river almost up to the Parliamentary limits. These deposits of earth were well adapted to the growth of trees and shrubs which consist of the choicest kinds of both, and have flourished luxuriantly. Due caution having been taken in their selection to reject such kinds as were known to dislike a smoky locality, the result is that this park contains one of the richest collections in or near London. About 200 acres are here appropriated to ornamental and recreative purposes, in some such proportion as follows:—viz., grass surface, 100 acres; water, 20; and shrubberies, plantations, drives, and walks, 80.

About thirty-four acres have been especially prepared for cricket, embracing match-grounds and practice-grounds for schools, as well as for the public generally. There is likewise a separate practice-piece for organised clubs, about 120 of which have availed themselves of it this season. On the two match-grounds 499 matches have been played between the 1st of May and the 30th of September of the present year. Other large open spaces are used for the drill and exercise of the troops stationed at Chelsea New Barracks, as also of various volunteer corps. The district police are drilled here also. Portions are set apart for trap-ball, rounder, and other games; and when the cricket season terminates football is commenced, and is continued throughout the year. With the exception of a small space used by the Civil Service Club, the rest of these grounds are kept by the Department of Woods and Forests. The lake is an artificial one, and is fed partly from the Thames and partly by a steam-engine, fixed for the purpose of supplying the park with water for the lodges, drinking-fountains, roads, flower-beds, urinals, &c. The depth of the water is too shallow for bathing, being only 2½ ft. deep. A large bathing-pond would be as fully appreciated in this locality as those at Victoria Park are. The lake, however, is extensively used for boating, the boats being let on hire by Mr. Greaves, of Chelsea.

There is a gymnasium and playground in the south-eastern portion of the park, and on the ground adjacent to it Sunday and other schools are allowed to hold their annual treats, which, owing to the facility of access to the park, by both rail and water, are annually increasing in number.

The subtropical garden, of some four acres in extent, did great credit throughout the summer to Mr. Gibson, who has himself travelled in the East on a botanical mission for, and at the expense of, the late Duke of Devonshire.

The peninsula, comprising an area of five acres and a half was completed and opened to the public last June. It is laid out in the English landscape style, combining a series of mounds with gentle slopes, between which are pictureque vistas. Nearly at its centre there is a reservoir, which is excavated below the level of the neighbouring springs. The water from this self-supplied source is as clear as crystal; it is pumped into an elevated tank which holds 20,000 gallons, from which are laid service-pipes for the supply of the park.

During the last two years a horse-ride has been formed about 40 ft. wide. It commences at Chelsea Bridge, is continued along the river frontage to near the West Lodge, and thence to the west end of the south drive. This year it is being brought in the opposite direction to the east end of the same drive, and will be soon completed. It will probably be extended along the south side next year, and will then encircle the park. When it becomes better known, this will be one of the most attractive rides within easy reach of the fashionable parts of London. The advantage of a river frontage possessed by Battersea Park alone is shown by the fact that upwards of 12,000 persons have landed at the park piers on each of several fine Sundays this year.

The tolls on Chelsea and Battersea Bridges are a great drawback to the enjoyment of this park, although it is frequented by many on the week days. But on Sundays, when the bridge is free, in fine weather, 40,000 or 50,000 people have been in the park at one time during the last summer. The gratuitous distribution of surplus bedding plants, authorised by the First Commissioner of Woods and Forests, has been made here, as elsewhere, this autumn.

Perhaps no greater improvements in the landscape-gardening way have been made for many years on the northern bank of the Thames than those recently carried out in Chelsea Hospital grounds, which were, until of late, nearly in the formation in which they were originally laid out. The embankment on the north side of the Thames, the construction of new approaches to the handsome suspension-bridge at Chelsea, and other public improvements in this quarter rendered the entire reconstruction of these grounds necessary. The terraces on the south front, and, indeed, the whole surface in this part had to be raised 4½ ft.; and, on the side nearest Chelsea Bridge, a depth of filling of from 10 ft. to 24 ft., was involved. This having been effected, the grounds were inclosed with a substantial iron railing in front, and their superficial formation was completed in 1862. In carrying out these works, some 100,000 cubic yards of various sorts of stuff were deposited by contract, and the grounds thus made are equal to any of a like extent near London.

The raising of the ground above-mentioned rendered it necessary either to sacrifice or transplant an avenue of fine old pollard lime-trees, planted in the centre of the grounds some 150 years ago. It was decided to attempt their removal, and this has been effected by powerful machines, four or five tons of earth being taken with each tree. They have been formed into two avenues, one on the eastern and the other on the western side of the grounds; and so successfully has this been done that not a tree has been lost. These grounds are liberally adorned with flowering plants, and, being kept in good order, look very brilliant in summer.

A portion of the grounds occupying the site on which Ranelagh House formerly stood is devoted to the private use of the inmates of the hospital, and is kept in order by the Lords Commissioners. It has been recently re-formed and laid out at their expense, in a style corresponding to that of the adjoining grounds. Here allot-

ments are set apart for the pensioners, consisting of a square rod each; and they are so successfully cultivated by some of these men that as much as £10 or £11 has been realised on one allotment. This is done chiefly by the cultivation of the musk-plant, of which two and three crops are obtained in a season, and for which there is an easy sale to hawkers.

From what we have succinctly and imperfectly described, it will be seen that, starting from the south side of Battersea Park, and passing between the well laid-out grounds of Chelsea Hospital and the new Guards' Barracks to the end of Lower Sloane-street, the commencement of a grand road from Battersea to Hyde Park has been made. When, if ever, the connecting link, via Sloane-street, will be formed is another question.

Kennington Park is of comparatively recent formation, having been inclosed about 1851. The space it occupies was known as "Kennington-common," which had become a thorough public nuisance, and a source of extreme annoyance to those who dwelt in its vicinity, who, when the park was projected, offered to subscribe £5,000 towards its formation. There are large vitrified works close at hand, which do not promote the luxuriant growth of the trees and shrubs. They have, however, gradually, though slowly, improved of late. In laying out this little park, of thirty-four acres, an amalgamation of the plain geometrical and the English styles has been adopted, the latter having been completed about three years since. It is furnished with a gymnasium and a playground, which, in that populous neighbourhood, are in constant use. There is likewise a handsome drinking-fountain, presented by Mr. Felix Slade, of Lambeth, and designed by Mr. Driver. It is constructed of polished granite, surmounted by a bronze casting, which represents Hagar and Ishmael at the well. There are two large grass inclosures in the centre of these grounds, in which a very good plan, and one worthy of adoption elsewhere, is pursued, to preserve the turf from utter destruction. Different portions of the park are closed and opened alternately to the public. Were it not for this precaution, there would not be a living blade of grass to be seen by the end of July; every vestige of turf would be tramped to death. By permission of the First Commissioner of Works, these open spaces are used for the inspection of local volunteer corps and other purposes. The usual floral decorations are carried out during the season, which, considering the quantity of smoke and deleterious fumes issuing from the adjoining chemical works, succeed as well as can be expected. The park is surrounded by a wrought-iron fence, backed by a privet hedge. No metropolitan park is a greater boon to, or is more highly appreciated by, those who can enjoy its privileges than the park at Kennington.

The origin of Victoria Park was this. In the fourth and fifth years of her present Majesty's reign an Act was passed to enable the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to complete the sale of York House and to purchase with the proceeds a Royal park. The Duke of Sutherland paid £72,000 for the remainder of the lease of that house, and this money was applied to the purchase of about 290 acres of land, situated in the parishes of St. John, Hackney; St. Matthew, Bethnal-green; and St. Mary, Stratford-le-Bow, in the county of Middlesex. Nearly one third of the acreage mentioned is taken for building-ground; the rest is Victoria Park. Its site had been previously market-gardens and brick-fields. The ornamental lake is made over the rough brick-field, near to which stood Bishop Bonner's famous hall. The park is bounded on the north side by Hackney; on the south by Sir G. Duckett's Canal, running nearly east and west; and on the west by the Regent's Canal. It is divided into two portions—the Ornamental or West Park, and the East Park. In the former there is an ornamental lake, having about ten acres of surface, with three very pretty islands. Here boats are hired, at 1s. per hour; and there are numbers of waterfowl of various kinds. On the south-west side of the lake there is a fine avenue of elm-trees, with a carriage-drive and shady walks; there is also an arcade here, furnished with seats. On the north-west end of the lake there is a handsome walk called "The Vale," which is planted with choice trees, shrubs, and flowers. Close adjacent are the greenhouses and pits for raising and wintering the plants, but they look scarcely large enough for the purpose. In this portion of the park there are several separate flower-gardens, ribbon-borders 300 yards long, and mixed flower-beds of considerable extent, filled with various plants.

The east park is used for games, and contains two bathing-lakes, which are well supplied with water. These are much frequented, as many as 7000 people having often bathed there in one morning. They are open from four to eight o'clock a.m. Every means is taken to ensure the safety of the bathers. Buoys are fixed, showing the depth of water; there is a boat with a man ready to aid if necessary; and the swimming-master, Woodbridge, is always in attendance. The extent of these two lakes is about six acres.

At the extreme end of the park is the cricket-ground, of thirty-five or forty acres. Here sixty or eighty wickets are often pitched, on Saturdays. The ground is rolled and mown with a machine. About one third of the way through the park is the Victoria drinking-fountain, presented by Miss Burdett Coutts; and, to add to the means afforded for public exercise and recreation, there are gymnasias, as there are also swings and merry-go-rounds. Victoria—of course called after her Majesty the Queen—is a very pretty park, and is admitted by all visitors to do credit to its original designer and its present superintendent, Mr. Merrett.

ALL-ENGLAND PLOUGHING-MATCHES.—The contest for superiority, which has been in progress for some time past, was carried on last week with unabated vigour, and, notwithstanding the weather, large numbers of agriculturists were attracted to the meetings. Six matches "Open to all England" took place—viz., at Chepstow, Bourne, Gloucester, Mitcheldean, Forest of Dean, and St. Briavels, Monmouthshire. The Chepstow match was gained by Messrs. Ransome, of Ipswich; the other five matches were all carried off by the Bedford plough of Messrs. Howard.

THE FORTHCOMING SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW AND THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—The rumours which have been extensively circulated that the annual cattle show of the Smithfield Club will this year be suspended in consequence of the cattle plague are entirely without foundation. The show will take place as usual, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in the first week in December—commencing on Monday, the 4th, and closing on Friday, the 8th, of that month. It is to be borne in mind that the Great Metropolitan Cattle Show is not only an exhibition of fat stock, but that it is a market lasting four days, and, until the Government decide to stop the metropolitan Monday and Thursday markets (an almost impossible decision), there is no likelihood that that which may be called the Agricultural Hall Market will be interfered with. All the stock sent, and for which the entries are more numerous than ever, are intended for the butchers on this occasion; none will be returned home for the chance of a second prize next year. We understand, however, that special and most stringent precautions against disease will be adopted by the Smithfield Club. A staff of veterinary surgeons will be established, and one will always be on the premises at night, as well as during each day. Cattle watchmen will make rounds at regular hours of the night, and inspect each animal, and, on the least suspicion of disease, it will be immediately removed to a hospital. Shows of breeding stock have been very properly discontinued, but the fat stock market of London is weekly filled, not only with cattle from all parts of the kingdom, but from Denmark, Holland, North and South Germany, and, recently, from Hungary and Poland.

POOR RATES AND PAUPERISM.—A return issued by the Poor-Law Board, including the whole of England, minus about 1 per cent (viz., parishes incorporated under Gilbert's Act and single parishes still governed by the 43rd of Elizabeth), shows that in the half year ending at Lady Day, 1865, the expenditure for in-maintenance and outdoor relief of the poor amounted to £2,219,858, a decrease of 14 per cent, as compared with the half year ending at Lady Day, 1864. Of course, the decrease was greatest in Lancashire, but the ratio of decrease was nearly as large in Derbyshire; and a decrease was observable also in Cheshire, Westmorland, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge, Cornwall, and Northumberland. On the other hand, there was an appreciable increase in the metropolis and in the counties of Rutland, Oxford, Warwick, Gloucester, Berks, Bedford, Stafford, Notts, and Durham. The monthly return has also been issued for August. At the close of that month the number of persons in receipt of relief from the rates in the north-western division, consisting of Lancashire and Cheshire, was 13 per cent less than at the corresponding period of 1864. In the residue of the kingdom, taken as a whole, the numbers were almost identical at the two periods; but the several divisions of the kingdom, taken separately, show some variation. In the north midland division there was a decrease of 3·39 per cent in August, 1865, as compared with August, 1864; in the eastern counties a decrease of 1·74, and in the northern of 1·18 per cent. The pauperism in the metropolis showed an increase of 2·03 per cent, the numbers relieved rising from little more than 89,000 to very nearly 91,000.

Literature.

Shellburn. By ALEXANDER LEIGHTON, Author of "Curious Storied Traditions of Scottish Life," "Mysterious Legends of Edinburgh," &c. London : Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is a very queer sort of a story—not so much, however, for its matter as for its manner. We don't know who or what Mr. Alexander Leighton is; but we have a tolerably good notion of the characteristics of the Scottish schoolmaster; and we should certainly be inclined to set down Mr. Leighton for a "domine." His style is remarkable for that pompous roundaboutism, that passion for out-of-the-way words and phrases, and that weakness for showing his "lair" by the use of classical and foreign words and allusions, which are such distinguishing features in the lucubrations of the genuine Scottish "maister" of the old school. If a dozen words can be dragged into a sentence which would be better reduced to six, Mr. Leighton is sure to employ the dozen; if a scrap of French or Latin can possibly be lugged in, it will certainly be made to do duty; if an uncommon word can be substituted for one in ordinary use, the uncommon one is chosen by Mr. Leighton; and if a very commonplace incident or character can be illustrated, whether appropriately or not, by a classical allusion, you may rely upon the allusion being at hand. All this, perhaps, constitutes fine writing—in Mr. Leighton's estimation; but we humbly submit that it smacks somewhat of pedantry, and decidedly mars the interest of the story. We do not mean to say that our author uses words improperly, that he invents, or even falls back upon positively obsolete phrases; all the words he employs will be found in the dictionary—when looked for; but who cares to read a novel with Johnson or Webster at hand for constant reference? Perhaps, as we have referred to these peculiarities of Mr. Leighton's style, we ought to point out one or two specimens of what we mean. When our author has occasion to say that a thing was disagreeable to any of his characters, he says he or she "relucted" against it. If he wants to describe the conduct and characteristics of a stepmother, he calls them "novercal." If he wants to show that one motive checked another, he says that a "corrupting" influence was brought to bear. And so on. Of Mr. Leighton's fancy for learned allusions the following sentence will be a sufficient instance:—"If she had been a *bas bleu* classic—which she could not be with those unclassical feelings of hers—she might have been ingenious in remembering the fable that, when Aurora imbued Tithon with long life by means of the vapour she exhaled from her breast, he thereby got his lips softened for kissing the daughters of men." Again, as a specimen of Mr. Leighton's habit of getting into the stilted style of writing, and of darkening sense by a profusion of words, we may cite the following description of his hero's mother:—

She was—we may take the opportunity of saying—a woman of considerable presence; only a good judge of appearances would have seen that in her tall call of towns rural negligence were occasionally under the tightening call of town manners. She had once got in London a shock of etiquette, with all the effects of galvanism; with this difference, that the jerks remained after the influence passed. Not that she permitted this to interfere with a kind of natural dignity, but that the extraneous thing might have been distinguished from the intraneous, and a lover of consistency and simplicity would have liked better to have had the natural as undarned the most.

But we have said enough about Mr. Leighton's style. Indeed, we would not have said so much, did not the author continually crop up in almost every page of the story.

A word now as to the story itself. There is nothing very original either in the plot or in the characters. We have the time-honoured Baronet of old descent, Sir George Rowley by name, deformed in body but more so a great deal in mind. There is the stern, harsh, and selfish stepmother, Lady Rowley the second. There is a meek, mild, sweet-tempered, simple-hearted, yielding, and yet, when put to the test, firm and high-souled daughter, Alice Rowley. There is a sparkling, vivacious, mercurial, and clever lover, Patrick Grame. There is a baby brother, by the stepmother, of whom, however, all we know are his mother's plottings in his favour, frustrated in the end, however, by his death. There are the hero's mother, already described; an ancient dowager, Sir George's mother; two other ladies, two lawyers, and a faithful "servant maid and man." These for characters. For plot, there is a secret marriage under false names, of which the heroine is the fruit, but which is afterwards repudiated by the father, he of the deformed person and mind above mentioned. There is the consequent stain of bastardy on poor Alice. There is a wonderful parure of diamonds given in secret by the dowager to her grand-daughter, but greatly coveted by the stepmother—we beg pardon, the novercal person. There is an attempt to frighten Alice into the surrender of her grandmother's gift by taking her before the sub-sheriff for secret examination. And there is the upsetting of all the vile plot by the discovery in the ivory box containing the diamonds of the certificate of marriage of Sir George to Alice's mother, and another document under the hand of the dead dowager, proving that this certificate is genuine and refers to her son and the first Lady Rowley (dead also), and a clause bequeathing the marriage certificate and the diamonds to Alice. Of course, after that all ends happily for the virtuous and badly for the wicked. There are here the elements of a very good story, and the story would be good were it not spoiled by the faults of style we have pointed out. We must also be allowed to object to the good taste of the author in making his hero—Patrick Grame—speak of Sir George's personal deformity in presence of his daughter, and that, too, before the father's cruelty had developed itself and justified the sneer. Patrick, the boy, might be pardoned by all but Sir George Rowley for mocking at that gentleman's hump; but Patrick, the man, should not have made a daughter, and his affianced wife, blush for her father's deformity. Even instantly kissing away the poor girl's tears, does not atone for the thoughtless and indelicate speech which caused them to flow. On the whole, "Shellburn," as we have said, is a good story; and if Mr. Leighton will condescend to eschew or modify the faults we have mentioned we shall be glad to welcome him again to the field of fiction.

The Shaving of Shagpat: an Arabian Entertainment. By GEORGE MEREDITH. A new Edition. Chapman and Hall.

"Did you ever see it rain at Harrogate, Sir?" "No, Sir; I never did." "Then you have a pleasure yet to come, Sir."

Let us ask the reader—Have you read "The Shaving of Shagpat"? No? Then you have a pleasure yet to come. Buy this cheap edition at once, admire the frontispiece—a fine steel engraving of the Beautiful Bhanavar among the Serpents—and then proceed to enjoy one of the most thoroughly enjoyable books ever written. Every man to his taste; but, for our parts, we would rather read "The Shaving of Shagpat" than all the novels of the season. This may not be high praise for Mr. Meredith; but it is a strong recommendation to the general reader. The book is, as its title expresses, an "Arabian Entertainment"—a series of Oriental romances within a romance; but the reader will, of course, expect to find the charm of the writing increased by lights of modern culture; and, above all, Mr. Meredith is a poet. He does write novels, but he has no business to do it, and nobody knows that better than himself. He has much humour, a mind most sensitive to impressions of all kinds, and great activity, so that he does, in a manner, accommodate himself to the conditions of the novel as we in modern times understand it. But it is in *fantastic* writing, and in poetry pure and simple, that he is at home, and manifestly to the eye of his reader feels himself at home, and delights in his power. In *fantastic* narrative, where his mind has free play, he is a most exquisite and subtle writer, and wonderfully prolific in beautiful pictures.

As a novelist, as a romancist, and as a poet, Mr. Meredith is distinguished, above all things, by the readiness with which his "fancy turns to thoughts of love." Who knows better than he how to tread the thinnest ice of passionate suggestion and *not* cease to be a poet? There are many ways of writing about the loveliness of women. Mr. Meredith always writes like a man who is keenly alive to it. There is much to compare in him and Mr. George Macdonald—who is also by nature a poet and romancist, by misfortune a writer of novels—but what differences there are

between these two men of genius! Both of them write prose the very life of which is the poetry which the prose holds in suspension; but what a gulf, for example, between Mr. Macdonald's way and Mr. Meredith's way of suggesting a fair woman or a love scene. A man might desire no greater pleasure than to lie on a sofa (as Gray said) and read them all day long—the ethical subtleties of Mr. Macdonald turn by turn with the sensuous vividness of Mr. Meredith, who makes you see the flashing of a jewel or the rounding of a limb, and fills the air with sweet odours all about.

In order to excite the curiosity of those who did not read this sumptuous book upon its first appearance, we quote the opening:—

THE THWACKINGS.

It was ordained that Shibli Bagarac, nephew to the renowned Baba Mustapha, chief barber to the Court of Persia, should shave Shagpat, the son of Shimpoor, the son of Shoolip, the son of Shulinus; and they had been cloisters for generations, even to the time of Shagpat, illustrious.

Now the story of Shibli Bagarac, and of the ball he followed, and of the subterranean kingdom he came to, and of the enchanted palace he entered, and of the sleeping King he shaved, and of the two Princesses he released, and of the Afrite held in subjection by the arts of one and bottled by her, is not known as 't were written on the finger-nails of men and traced in their corner-robés? As the poet says:—

Ripe with oft telling and old is the tale,
But 'tis of the sort that can never grow stale.

Now things were in that condition with Shibli Bagarac that on a certain day he was hungry and abject, and the city of Shagpat the clothier was before him; so he made towards it, deliberating as to how he should procure a meal, for he had not a dirhem in his girdle, and the remembrance of great dishes and savoury ingredients were to him as the illusion of rivers sheening on the sands to travellers gasping with thirst.

We warmly recommend "The Shaving of Shagpat" as a book to buy. It is an inexhaustible fund of entertainment and suggestion, and will be turned to again and again, in the weary hour when the blood runs slow and the whole world is dun-colour. Mr. Sandy's "Bhanavar the Beautiful" (the frontispiece) is so charming that we wonder it has not found its way into the print-shops. For ourselves, we do not mind confessing that we felt as if we should like another copy of the engraving!

The Grey Woman, and Other Tales. By MRS. GASKELL. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

We have lately had good reason to complain of the flood of reprinted periodical articles which have been poured upon us without stint or mercy. But there are reprints and reprints, and we have not the least inclination to find fault with Mrs. Gaskell for making and publishing this collection of stories, most of which have already appeared in various publications. These tales are all good, as, indeed, is nearly everything which Mrs. Gaskell has written. Another merit of the volume is that, unlike certain other authors who have lately favoured (?) the world with reprints of their stray papers, she does not seek to conceal weakness by the adoption of a quaint, showy, and "taking" title, but simply and honestly calls her book "The Grey Woman, and Other Tales." Others may be compelled to resort to such devices as "Rook's Gardens" and "Tales for the Marines;" but Mrs. Gaskell does not. What she issues will pass for good literary coin without any adventitious aid. Her writings need not "the foreign aid" of fancy titles; their truthful simplicity is their best recommendation. "The Grey Woman" the leading story in the book, is a tale of the chauffeurs (robbers and murderers) of the Continent; and those who delight in the terrible will have ample gratification. "Curious if True" relates an adventure in Germany, which is very curious indeed—if true. "Six Weeks at Heppenheim" is a very pretty love-story, in which one phase of female nature in love matters—that of temporarily, from false pride, rejecting what is most desired—is finely portrayed. But the gem of the collection is, perhaps, "Libbie Marsh's Three Eras," in which the influences of a genuinely good-hearted girl preaching by action are admirably delineated. We are neither young nor sentimental—in fact, our beard is pretty well flecked with grey, and we have become somewhat case-hardened in novel-reading; and yet we will not swear that there was not a very unaccountable mistiness before our eyes occasionally when reading this story. We were quite under the spell of Libbie's goodness, and therefore we do not wonder that Margaret Marshall, the termagant, scold, and terror of her neighbourhood, succumbed before it and became the mildest of the mid, whose tongue no longer was heard in wordy warfare in the court. We have mentioned only a few of the tales in this agreeable volume, which we heartily commend, as containing much entertaining reading and teaching many excellent lessons, and that, too, without that pomp and parade which often make moral teaching defeat its own object. We must not omit to mention that the book is nicely illustrated and beautifully printed.

Life-Incidents and Poetic Pictures. By A. H. POWELL. Trübner and Co.

Mr. Powell is, we remember, an old acquaintance of this journal, little books of his having reached us at least twice before. His verses improve, and we may at least congratulate him on holding his head up, and getting along, in spite of the "dyspepsia" and the short commons about which he is so candid.

Mr. Powell is a working man who, after trying mill-work, railway-work, shopkeeping, and all with small success, or, at least, with vicissitudes that drove him into all manner of social wildernesses, took to nondescript forms of literature. Where he got the money for his magazine venture—which we happen to remember very well—we cannot make out; indeed, throughout his story, we seem to be perpetually finding him penniless, and yet entering upon fresh enterprises that seem to require a good many pence. But life is full of these mysteries! Mr. Powell is, we are inclined to think, a thoroughly honest fellow, not without chivalry, but decidedly without any sense of humour. He is now, as we gather, a Spiritualist, or Electro-Biologist, or both, and goes about lecturing. Surely, we once reviewed in these columns a Spiritualist book of his, with some "spirit-drawings"?

The frankness with which Mr. Powell narrates his "Life-Incidents," tells us how he bought, now and then, a gross of green spectacles, felt queasy, took only eighteenpence at a lecture, offered an overreaching landlord a Bank of Elegance note; "asserted" himself in the most indiscernible situations, and so on, is without parallel, except in the writings of Poet Close—with whom, however, we are not comparing Mr. Powell in any other respect. That the comparison is in that particular just, will appear from an extract or two, which we cannot resist the temptation of making. Mr. Powell, at Eastbourne, "biologised" a lady for headache, and then in the daughter "produced various phenomena which much gratified the mother." What followed is thus described:—

ONLY A PIECE OF COLD FOWL, INDEED!

Mrs. T. rang the bell, and abruptly ordered some cold fowl to be placed before me; but, having only breakfasted about an hour or so, I wanted nothing to eat. The fowl was brought in, nevertheless. I sat for several minutes discussing the fowl and the probable fee for my services. I had a very short time to wait before a visitor entered, who was welcomed by Mrs. T. almost with the same breath she desired the servant to open the hall-door for Mr. Powell. Of course I walked out, but not without feeling a keen sense of the cool effrontry of a person who could engage a professional man to alleviate pain and amuse her, and expect a piece of cold fowl to compensate for the exertion and the loss of time.

But the following scene, which took place at Windsor, is as fine in its way as anything Poet Close ever wrote:—

Amongst my more frequent patrons were two of the sons of the Duke of A——, who always came accompanied by their tutor, a Mr. L. On one occasion I received an invitation to lunch with their Lordships. Mr. L., the tutor, whose courtesy still lives in my esteem, presided, and engaged his aristocratic pupils and myself in conversation about Pre-Raphaelitism, a subject almost foreign to me, and I was not disposed to publish my ignorance by even venturing an opinion during the conversation. I had been assisted to some turbot, and had scarcely tasted it, being engaged listening to the remarks of the tutor. A powdered servant behind my chair, whose fingers must have been uneasy to clutch something, seized my plate and ran off with it, returning with a clean one. I was this time assisted to beef, and thought I would really do proper duty, when one of the young Lords wished the "Professor" to inform them how he produced certain biological experiments. Of course I could not help replying, but during the interval of time it took to make my reply understood, the powdered servant seized my plate a second time, replacing it as before with a clean one. I was then assisted to pastry,

and thought I would not allow the powdered flunkey to molest my comfort a third time. But alas! what was the use? Their young Lordships had an appetite for biology, and I had better have had none for pastry, for on the very instant when I had placed my fork down to take my handkerchief from my pocket, all were looking for my words with greedy eagerness, and all greediness on my part, had I felt any, could not possibly have been satisfied, for the powdered flunkey ran off with my remaining tart. This was past endurance. I resolved to give myself up to conversation, and to make a fool of my appetite no longer. Cheese and salad I declined. I believe much to the satisfaction of the flunkey, whom I would have sacrificed fortune at that minute to have biologised.

The book furnishes many more passages equally lugubrious; and we can honestly say our readers will find it entertaining. We wish Mr. Powell all happiness, and will be as candid with him as he is with his public, adding that we should be glad to hear of his having ceased to believe in the "spirits" and found his way into some kind of quiet, permanent, reasonably remunerative employment, which would leave him at liberty to write verses as usual, without placing him in situations so supremely absurd as some of those which he records as if they were worth the trouble—which they are not.

The Young Englishwoman. A Journal of Fiction and Entertaining Literature, Music, Poetry, Fine Arts, Fashions, and Useful and Ornamental Needlework. Vol. I. London: S. O. Beeton. Mr. Beeton has just issued the first completed volume of his "Young Englishwoman," a periodical which, from its commencement, has had a thorough success. Nor is this to be wondered at when we consider the excellence and variety of its contents. Though addressed specially to young Englishwomen, this periodical may well be perused by both male and female persons of all ages. Several excellent tales are among its contents, the most remarkable of which is a wonderfully clever story, entitled "The True History of a Young Ragamuffin," which is sufficient in itself to give a character of high excellence to the publication. The volume is accompanied by a supplemental case containing a variety of designs for costumes, crochet-work patterns, &c., many of which are very tasteful and pretty.

FINE ARTS.

GUSTAVE DORE'S ILLUSTRATIONS.

For the last few days Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, who were the first to make the British public acquainted with the works of this remarkable artist in a cheap form, have issued invitations to the critics and others connected with art and literature to a private view of Doré's latest work—his illustrations of the Bible.

These illustrations consist of no less than 230 large page drawings, which have occupied Doré's pencil for four years, and would probably have kept any other artist employed for a far longer period. It is impossible not to feel surprised, almost bewildered, on learning that this enormous work, which might be the labour of a lifetime, is only one of many similar undertakings of almost equal magnitude performed by one artist, who even now has not attained thirty, an age at which few artists hitherto have begun to reap their fame.

Before entering on our review of the Bible illustrations we will venture to remind our readers of the principal works of this great draughtsman. First and foremost comes a work which he has perhaps never since equalled, which he has certainly never surpassed—"The Wandering Jew." The manner in which the artist, without any exaggeration of the natural objects, shows how the condemned Hebrew is haunted by images in the clouds, the rocks, the trees—nay, in his own shadow—of the Saviour bearing the cross on the road to Calvary, is something so fine, both in conception and execution, that it must be seen to be properly appreciated.

The breadth and grandeur of the illustrations of Dante will be remembered by all who have had the good fortune to see them. Attempts have often been made to depict the awful punishments beheld by the poet, under the guidance of Virgil, in the "Inferno"; but they have so uniformly failed to be more than stage bogeyisms, that it was universally agreed that no pencil could realise the poet's ideas. But Doré has effectually disproved the conclusion. He has fully embodied all the gigantic terror of the poem; perhaps in some instances Dante is even indebted to his illustrator, the pencil appealing to us and speaking to us so much more plainly than the pen. One noticeable feature in this series is the calm repose with which Doré invests the figures of Dante and Virgil, as they pass amid all the agonies and horrors which speak so vividly in the figures around them.

The Don Quixote series is tolerably well known. The quaint vagaries of the Don and Sancho, and the sombre wildness of Spanish scenery—not to mention the weird workings of magic—have afforded ample scope for the fertile fancy and facile handling of the great Frenchman, whose mind has much that is akin to that of the great Spaniard. A less-known book, the "Contes Drôlatiques" of Balzac—a book which is unfortunately not adapted altogether for the drawing-room table, contains some fine specimens of Doré's varied powers; the romantic, the chivalrous, the grotesque, the diabolical, the beautiful, and the horrible, all exercise his pencil in these pages, swarming with small inch-square cuts, into which mines of humour and fancy are compressed.

That most amusing of all amusing books, "Baron Munchausen," has also been enriched by the genius of Doré; and it is needless to say how the artist has revelled in the absurdities and impossibilities of that greatest of liars. We are glad to see that Messrs. Cassell are about to publish the Baron, who is not as well known to the present generation as he should be. An introduction is promised by Mr. Leighmouth Shore, who, in the course of research, has picked up a few facts that will astonish a good many.

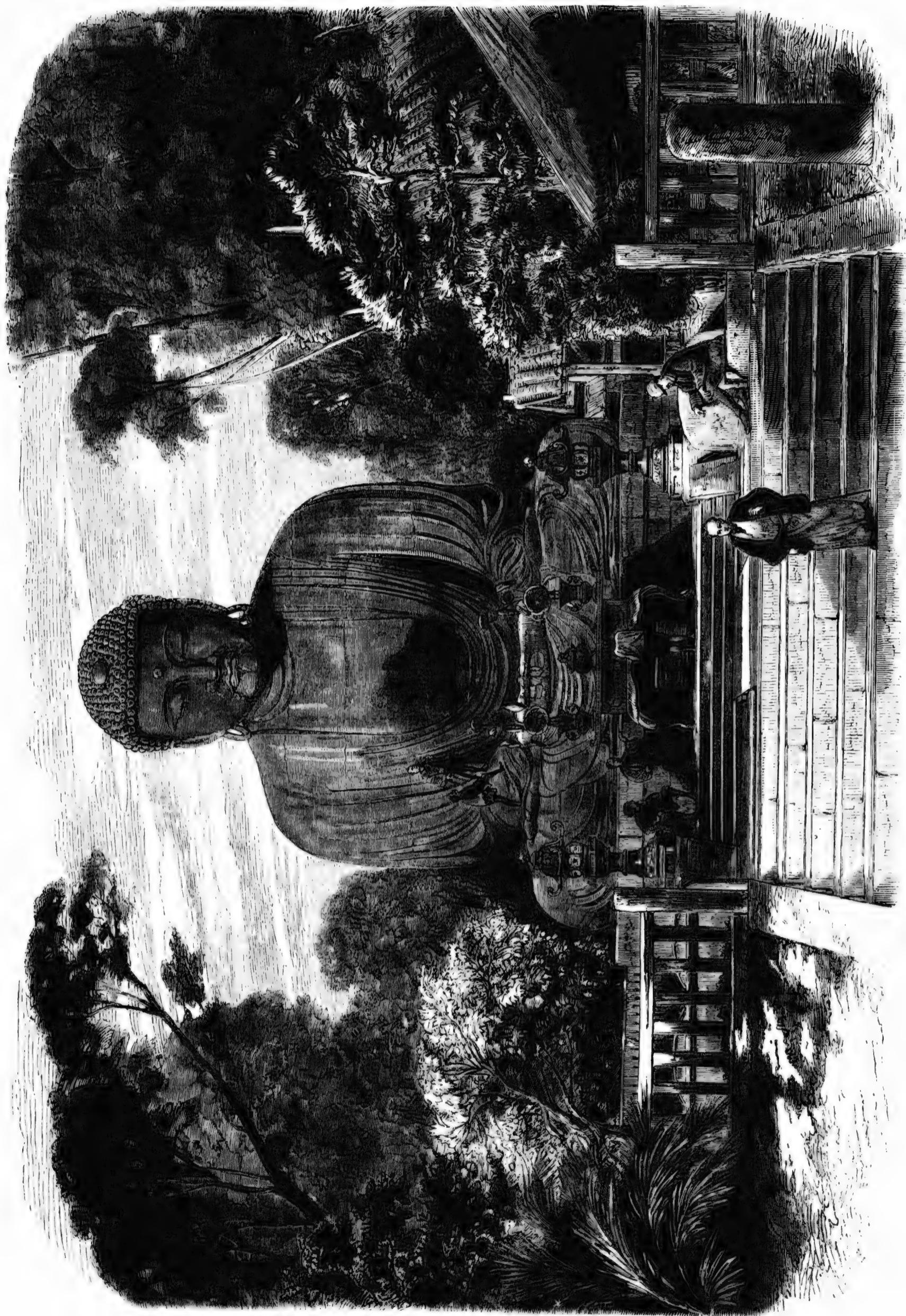
Throughout all these works Doré exhibits the same fancy and humour—the same power of composition and knowledge of drawing. And, what is more strange when we consider how prolific his pencil has been, he has never once repeated himself, far less borrowed from others.

The only thing, therefore, to be feared when such a genius undertakes to illustrate the Bible, was that his humour might, in spite of himself (perhaps all the more for the attempt to repress it) run riot occasionally in treating of the less solemn portions of the sacred narrative. Such fear, however, a glance at the pictures will prove to be entirely groundless. Gustave Doré has brought to the task all the qualities which have hitherto distinguished him, except his sense of the grotesque; or, if he has employed it at all, it has been to enable him to avoid that limit of the sublime which borders on the ludicrous.

Where the illustrations are so numerous, although all are good, some are naturally pre-eminent in merit. "The Creation of Light," in which the light, instead of being made out of nothing, emanates from the Deity, "The Sacrifice of Cain and Abel," "The Death of Abel," and "The Deluge," are all fine pictures. The "Sending out of the Dove" is a remarkable drawing; we never remember to have seen the gigantic proportions of the ark so ably realised before—even Bishop Colenso's scruples might be shaken by this picture. "The Return of the Ark from Gath," "The Raising of the Widow's Child," "Moses Afloat on the Nile," "The Lion and Ass Standing by the Dead Prophet," are all noble as well as novel conceptions, worked out with a grasp of effect and vigour for which Doré stands unrivalled. Our limits will not permit us to enumerate further the chief works of excellence, but we cannot close our notice without drawing attention to the engraving, which so ably interprets the artist's effects. M. Pisan has well merited the decoration which the Emperor—a wise patron of art and literature—has bestowed on him.

THE REMAINS OF MR. VINCENT WALLACE, the distinguished composer, having been brought from the Pyrenees, for interment in this country, were buried in Kensal-green Cemetery on Monday.

THE MORTAL REMAINS OF M. OTT, who died at Bonn, of the wounds he had received from Count d'Eulenburg, have been transferred from the place where they were deposited to a piece of ground purchased with the money sent from Alsace, Baden, &c. A monument is to be raised over the tomb of the defunct with the surplus of the money added to the produce of collections to be made amongst the population.



THE DAIBOUTSU, A BRONZE COLOSSAL STATUE ON THE SITE OF THE OLD CAPITAL OF THE TYCOONS, JAPAN.

A LEVANTINE BEGGAR.

We have frequently published Illustrations of those picturesque types of the people in the Levant, which are alike the delight of the traveller and the artist, though, in good truth, they are less romantic and even less picturesque than they are sometimes made to appear on canvas in a gallery of paintings. Our Engraving this week represents a person of no little importance in a country of rapid reverses and of submission to the decrees of fate—the recognised mendicant, who, leaning against a wall or sitting on a heap of stones at a street corner, turns his cavernous eyes towards the passenger and begs only by his wistful looks. There is something so sedate, one might almost say so dignified, in the turbaned head and the mute appeal that for a moment one thinks of Belisarius and of the mutability of human affairs, and even the most selfish of wayfarers will drop a coin, with the reflection that no one knows what the beggar may have been nor what he may become to-morrow in a country where fortune is still blind and even the highest gifts of the State are often bestowed on the impulse of a mere caprice.

THE FRENCH COLONY, NEW CALEDONIA.

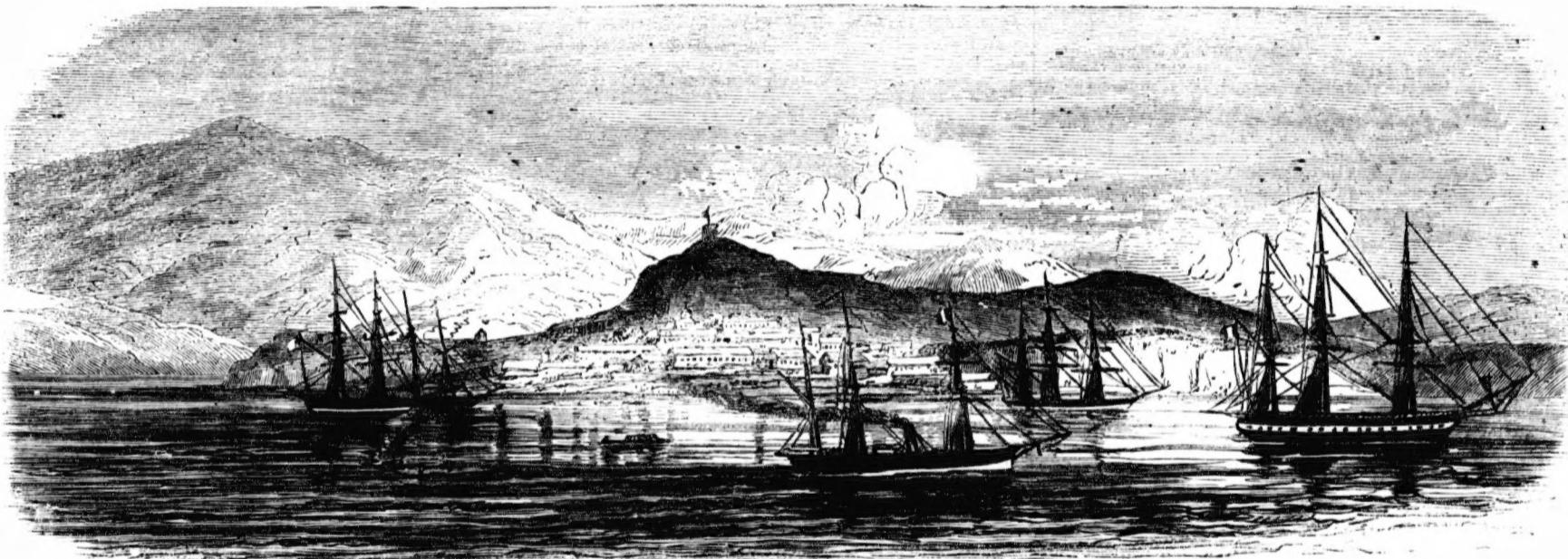
WHEN Captain Cook came, in the year 1770, upon that island in the Pacific the name of which he could not learn and called it New Caledonia, he found that the inhabitants were ignorant of the existence of goats, hogs, dogs, or cats; that they soon acquired a marvellous liking for spike nails and coloured cloth; that they appeared to live chiefly upon yams, roots, and vegetables, fish, and a little poultry; and, as he quaintly says, they had "little else than good nature to bestow." The good circumnavigator, however, seems to have been a little in error as to the disposition of these people, for it was afterwards discovered, though not by him, that they were cannibals—eating (perhaps as a solemn ceremony) the enemies who were taken in battle; and that their island, which its discoverer did not narrowly examine, was, at best but a barren, or, at least, an uncultivated place, a character which it has retained until very recently. An exploring party from France, however, left Cape Diemen in New Holland, in 1792, for the purpose of making further observations in New Caledonia, and discovered that Captain Cook had only visited the north-eastern side of the island. In the following year another party of French navigators visited the island, under the command of Admiral D'Entrecasteaux, and, from their researches and observations during a considerable stay, discovered the peculiarities as well as the capabilities of the place as a future colony.



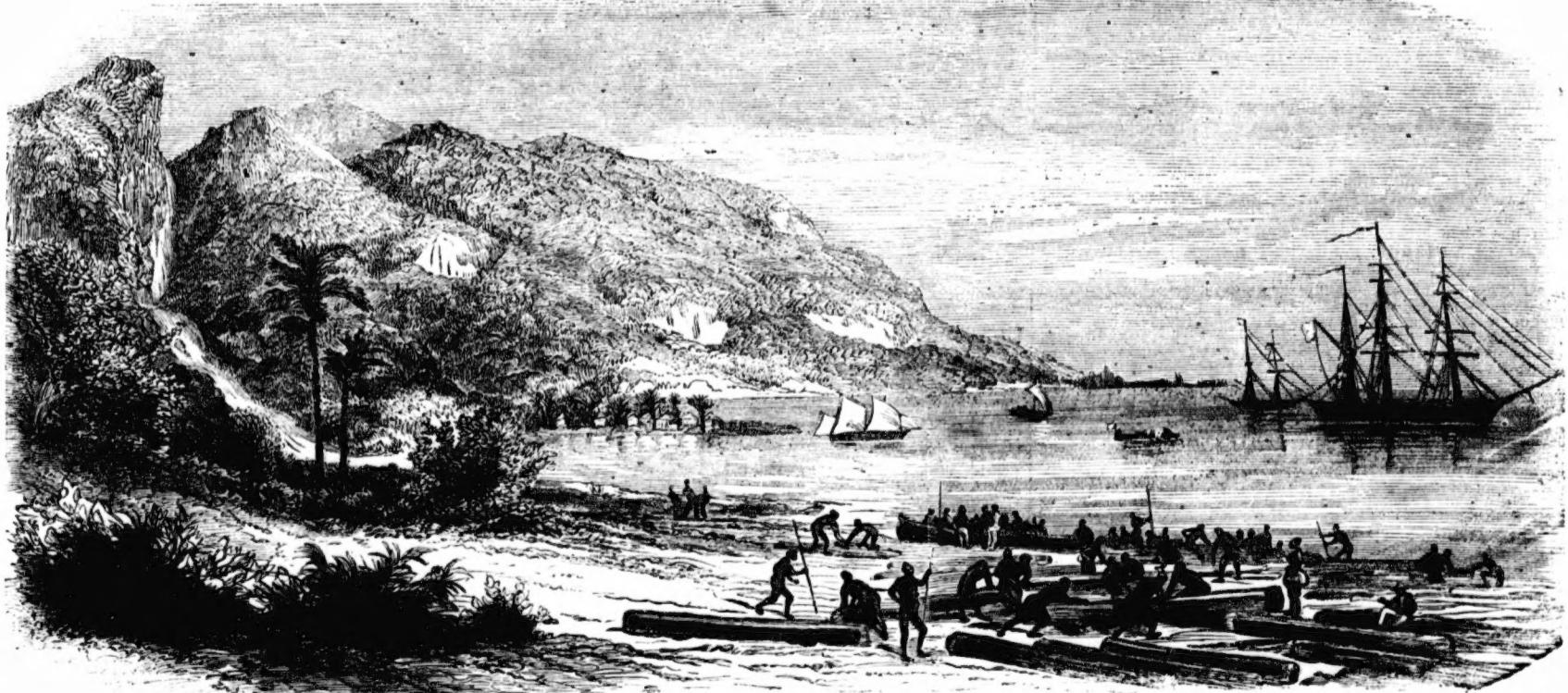
A LEVANTINE BEGGAR.

At this time there was not a single quadruped on the island, and the people subsisted on the yams which they cultivated, and on fish, roots, spiders; cocos-nuts, which grew abundantly; occasionally on birds; and, after a battle, on the prisoners they made. The island is 220 miles long, but of no great width, the broadest part not being more than forty miles. On all sides it is inclosed by coral reefs, which form a sort of chain connecting innumerable small cliffs, or rather islands, of sand. These reefs extend in some places more than fifty miles from the shore, but they generally occur at a distance of from four to two miles from the coast. Only two or three openings have been found which will admit large vessels to approach the island, while there are but two harbours where ships can securely anchor. From the shores the country gradually rises inland to a mountain range, which traverses the island in its entire length, and in the centre rises to 8000 ft. above the sea. New Caledonia is certainly less fertile than most of the islands of the Pacific, but in some of the valleys and on the shores the soil is good, though some of the flats are swampy, and the sides of the hills are covered with coarse grass. The inhabitants may be said to be Papuan negroes, as they speak only a dialect of the language of the Papuan race.

So much for the physical condition of the country; but the French, who from having long been our rivals in an evil sense are now competing with us in all the useful arts and in manufactures which we had long regarded as our own peculiar property, have also begun to compete with us as colonists; and the progress of New Caledonia has lately received an impetus which may ultimately overcome all the difficulties which beset the first settlers in a new and even a barren and savage country if it has any natural resources for manufacture or commerce. The Engravings which we publish of that part of the island containing the French colony will serve to illustrate the vigour with which an establishment has already been formed, and of the energy and enterprise which can transform a wild beach into a town and a dépôt for the marine, and establish a hold, by means of a proprietary military force, even amongst savages. The results of the French occupation have, at all events, been that the Kanaks, as the natives are called, have become friendly, and now help to carry on the works which the French have inaugurated, and labour very cheerfully beside the soldiers and the artisans who are their companions; and they are specially useful in conveying the timber, for which the Governor, M. Guillain, has sent an expeditionary force to the interior, to the Bay of Goro, whence it will be taken, for building purposes, to the town at Port de France.



ROADSTEAD OF THE PORT-DE-FRANCE, NEW CALEDONIA.



BAY OF GORO, ON THE EAST COAST OF NEW CALEDONIA.

THE GREAT STATUE ON THE SITE OF THE OLD CAPITAL OF THE TYCOONS AT JAPAN.

The extraordinary colossal figure represented in our Engraving possesses a melancholy interest to the English reader, inasmuch as it was on this spot that the murder of the officers which occurred some months ago was committed, and, though in that case the justice which was demanded was promptly rendered, the impression which the deed created on the whole European colony was not easily effaced.

This enormous bronze is one of the most striking examples of the bizarre art and perverted imagination of the Japanese, and nothing known in modern statuary can at all compare with the "Daiboutz," whose proportions may be guessed at by a reference to our Illustration, which, as it is taken from photograph, conveys the relative size of the human figure to this ugly monstrosity.

The Japanese resemble their relatives in China in their desire to mislead Europeans as to their institutions, and to conceal from them some of their principal buildings and temples, so that there is no certain information as to the age or the original intention of the figure, all that is known on the subject being that it stands on the site of the old capital of the Tycoons, and that the body of the statue contains very beautiful chapel or small temple, probably built with some votive or expiatory intention.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA.

The Royal English Opera has made a most creditable commencement this year. The performance of "L'Africaine" on Saturday evening was the finest and most complete performance of an opera on a grand scale ever given in English. Meyerbeer's music has been highly appreciated in England, as in other countries, but until now not one of his grand operas has been worthily represented on the English stage. A mutilated version of "Les Huguenots" is, we believe, played from time to time in the provinces, and tradition tells of an English translation of "Robert le Diable," brought out at Drury Lane Theatre soon after the production of the original, in which nothing was omitted except some of the most important pieces of music. Nor can anyone who takes an interest in operatic matters forget the admirable performances of "Dinorah," which did so much for the artistic reputation, but, apparently, so little for the commercial prosperity, of the Royal English Opera, under the management of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. Harrison. This, the most graceful and poetical, but also the least dramatic, of Meyerbeer's works, was performed in a style quite new to the English stage; but it presented fewer difficulties of execution than "L'Africaine," and it is in "L'Africaine" that our English singers and musicians have hitherto done best.

At the same time, the opera is not so well played by the English as by the Italian Company. Mr. Charles Adams is unable to declaim the vigorous phrases of the tenor part with the force of Herr Watzel ; and Mr. Alberto Lawrence is decidedly inferior to Signor Graziani, who, though he acts the character of Nelusko in an exaggerated and grotesque manner, sings the music to perfection.

The two principal female parts are most efficiently sustained by Miss Louise Pyne (Selika) and Mme. Lemmens-Sherrington (Ines). It seemed to us, at the Royal Italian Opera, that the chief parts in "L'Africaine" were those of Selika and Vasco. At the French Opera, where Faure gave great dramatic interest to the part of Nelusko, there were three principal characters, of about equal importance, in the work. It must now appear to those who have only heard "L'Africaine" in the English version that, in spite of the great number of personages, two only are really interesting—Selika and Ines; and it is certain that, at Covent Garden, out of four chief parts, these two alone are represented in a thoroughly artistic manner.

Thanks to the pianoforte arrangements, the public have become familiar with the principal melodies of "L'Africaine," and are now better prepared to appreciate the grand concerted pieces, in which so many of them occur, than they were when the opera was brought out last season under the direction of Mr. Gye. Thus the "Chorus of Bishops" produced a great impression in the Italian version; but in the English version it is encored. That at least was its fate on Saturday evening in spite of Mr. Mellon's apparent unwillingness to repeat it. There ought, however, to be no encores in "L'Africaine," in which the effect of every musical piece has been carefully studied, and which, moreover, is quite long enough as it stands. The performance on Saturday evening lasted four hours and a quarter, and if every air, chorus, and instrumental piece which the public applauded with enthusiasm had been played again as often as the public seemed to desire it, Selika would not have expired beneath the mancilla until an advanced hour on Sunday morning.

Although Selika's sleep-song, the septet in the finale to the second act, the duet between Selika and Vasco in the fourth act, and one or two other pieces, were applauded up to what is usually considered encore point, nothing was executed twice over except the aforesaid chorus and the well-known unison movement which serves as a prelude to Selika's dying scene, and of which the repetition is already sanctioned by a sort of tradition.

With the exception of the principal parts, given now to English instead of Italian and German singers, the opera is played almost exactly as it was played at Covent Garden during the Italian season. The band is to a great extent the same, and numerically is rather stronger than Mr. Costa's. The steady, safe-going chorus sings at the Royal English Opera as it sang at the Royal Italian Opera. The Covent Garden chorus is very good in its way, and no one can say that it has not had a great deal of experience: only, in gaining experience singers are in danger of losing some very desirable qualities, such as freshness of voice.

It is a great advantage to the singers that Mr. C. L. Kenney, who has made the English version of the libretto, has studied the musical phrases to which the words are set, even at the risk of damaging his work in a literary point of view. To translate French verse into English verse is easy enough; but to translate French verse, to which music has been written, so that it shall not only be good English verse, but shall also suit the French music, is a very difficult thing indeed. The adapter of a libretto, with the music to which his words are to be sung already composed, has a most awkward task before him; and he deserves great credit when, like Mr. Kenney, he succeeds in accomplishing it without any sacrifice of literary fame.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT TO CHANG-WOO-GOW.—On Monday morning a singular accident happened to Chang-Woo-Gow, the Chinese giant. Hitherto the managers have contrived to transport their gigantic charge to and from the Egyptian Hall without permitting him to be seen by the inquisitive eyes of the public. But on that morning all the precautions were frustrated by a singular accident. As the vehicle containing the Chinese party neared Westminster Abbey, the weight of Chang proved too much for the carriage, the bottom of which suddenly gave way, precipitating the whole celestial party into the mud. Chang bore the accident with his usual philosophical equanimity; but poor little Chung-Mow was sadly disturbed by his sudden plunge into the mud, and King-Foo's modesty was seriously offended. However, they contrived to scramble upon the seats, and managed to retain their position in the dilapidated vehicle until they were safely deposited at the Egyptian Hall.

A NEW MATERIAL FOR PAPER.—A substitute for rags in the manufacture of paper has been discovered by M. Caminade, for which he has obtained a patent. According to M. Caminade, the root of the lucerne plant, when dried and beaten, shows thousands of very white fibres, which form an excellent paste for papermakers, and may be substituted with great advantage for rags. It is further stated that the three kinds of lucerne—the Medicago media, the Medicago falcatia, and the Medicago maculata—produce equally good roots for papermakers' use. M. Rabourdin, an experienced agriculturist, states that the month of December is the best time for taking up the roots of the plant: the earth is then moist, and a great part of the root can be easily drawn. In the month of January or February following a harrow may be drawn over the land, and the remainder will come to the surface. The roots are then to be well washed and delivered to the papermakers. The pulp produced is said to be equal to that of ordinary rags. The roots are to be first pressed between two rollers to open them, and, when sufficiently crushed and dried, they are left to soak in running water for fifteen days or three weeks. The pulp, besides the thread for paper, produces salt of soda and a colouring matter called by the inventor "luzerine."

PALMERSTON.

BORN : OCT. 20, 1784. DIED : OCT. 18, 1865.

HE is down, and for ever ! The good fight is ended.
In deep-dinted harness our Champion has died ;
But tears should be few in a sunset so splendid.
And Grief hush her wail at the bidding of Pride.

He falls, but unvanquished. He falls in his glory,
A noble old King on the last of his fields;
And with death-song we come, like the Northmen of story,
And haughtily bear him away on our shields.

Nor yet are we mourners. Let proud words be spoken
By those who stand, pale, on the margin of his grave,
As we lay in the rest never more to be broken
The noble, the gentle, the wise, and the brave.

His courage undaunted, his purpose unaltered,
His long patient labour, his exquisite skill,
The tones of command from a tongue that ne'er faltered
When bidding the Nations to list to our will :

Let these be remembered ; but higher and better
The tribute that tells how he dealt with his trust,
In curbing the tyrant, in breaking the fetter,
Lay the pleasure of him we commit to the dust.

But his heart was his England's, his idol her honour.
Her friend was his friend, and his foe was her foe.
Were her mandate despised, or a scowl cast upon her,
How stern his rebuke, or how vengeance his blow!

Her armes were sad, and her banners were tattered,
And lethargy wrought on her strength like a spell.
He came to the front, the enchantment was scattered—
The rest let a reconciled enemy tell.

As true to our welfare, he did his own mission
When Progress approached him with Wisdom for guide ;
He cleared her a path, and with equal derision
Bade quack and fanatic alike stand aside.

The choice of his country, low faction despising,
He marched as a leader all true men could claim :
They came to their fellows, and held it sufficing
To give, as a creed, the great Minister's name.

So Heir to traditions of Him, long departed,
"Who called the New World up to balance the Old ?"
We lay thee in earth,—gallant-natured, true-hearted !
Break, herald, thy wand, for his honours are told.

No, let pride say her story and cease, for affection
Stands near with a wealth of wild tears in her eyes,
And claims to be heard with more soft recollection
Of one who was ever as kindly as wise.

We trusted his wisdom, but love drew us nearer
Than homage we owed to his statesmanly art,
For never was statesman to Englishman dearer
Than he who had faith in the great English heart.

The frank, merry laugh, and the honest eye filling
With mirth, and the jests that so rapidly fell,
Told out the State secret that made us right willing
To follow his leading—he loved us all well !

Our brave English Chief!—lay him down for the sleeping
That naught may disturb till the trumpet of doom :
Honour claims the proud vigil—but Love will come weeping,
And hang many garlands on Palmerston's tomb !—Punch.

AN ITALIAN SYSTEMATIC MURDERER.

An Italian Criminal Court has recently been occupied with a trial of that extraordinary class which rises to almost historical dignity through the absorbing interest of its records. On the 15th of April, 1861, a woman who let lodgings in a certain street in Florence was found dead in one of her lodging-rooms. Her body was lying on the floor, with the throat cut straight through to the backbone. It was noticed, as a remarkable circumstance, that though she lay writhing in an immense pool of blood, there were no blood drops anywhere about the room, nor any sprinkling of blood upon her dress or upon any article of furniture, the inference being that she was held in one position by the murderer while her life was taken by a single sweep of his knife. The woman's own room, as well as the other rooms of the house, had been plundered, and certain articles of jewellery known to belong to the victim had disappeared.

On the 4th of May following, in another street in the same city, and in a house also let out in lodgings by a woman, the keeper of the lodgings was found dead under circumstances precisely similar. She, too, lay on the floor with her throat cut to the bone, bathed in blood, while on no article of furniture or apparel was a single stray drop of blood discoverable. On the 24th of August a third murder, exactly resembling the other two, completed the alarm of the Florentines. In another lodging-house, situate in another street, the woman who kept the lodgings was found on the floor of one of her rooms with her throat severed, while still, as before, the wound had been so inflicted as to cause no splashing of blood. Only, in the two latter instances there lay by the corpse a pocket-handkerchief folded into a three-cornered shape, and showing marks of having been knotted at the ends.

Any reader acquainted with the records of celebrated trials will recognise in this story one of the most familiar features of such narratives. A murder is repeated so exactly in example after example as to show that the operations proceed from an organised system. The criminal who planned and executed the first assassination planned and executed also the second and third, and may be expected to perpetrate others with equal craft and similar impunity. That was the alarming feature in the murders in Ratcliff-highway some fifty ago. The proceedings of the murderer resembled those of a wild beast which carries off a sheep from the fold at intervals, and will go on doing so until tracked and killed. In fact, at Florence it seems to have been by accident only that these butcheries were not actually repeated at least half a dozen times more.

It happened, however, that, on the 28th of August, four days after the discovery of the last murder and six days, as was presumed, after its perpetration, the police found reason to arrest, on political grounds, a sojourner in Florence, named Benjamin de Cosimi. The reasons alleged for their suspicions sound curiously in our English ears. Cosimi used to walk about alone, and was never seen with a companion. One person only was ever known to call upon him, and that person seemed just such another character. Then, though he had given himself out as a merchant, nothing was known of his correspondents; and it was observed with still greater distrust that he often paid visits to clergymen, especially canons or other dignitaries of the Church. Putting these things together, the Florentine police surmised that the man must be a Papal spy, and arrested him accordingly by way of inquisition and experiment. A more suspicious circumstance, from our own point of view, was that, whereas on his arrival in Florence, about three weeks before the first of the murders, he had been exceedingly poor, he now appeared to have considerable command of money. However, when Cosimi was taken into custody and his apartments searched, though no political correspondence could be found, there were other discoveries made of no slight import. In his possession were the earrings torn from the body of the last victim, and pawnbrokers' duplicates for jewellery belonging to the two others. He had got, too, an almanack for the year, and in this the three days which were the dates of the three murders were each marked with a cross. Another little memorandum bore upon the future instead of the past, for it comprised the names of six other lodging-house keepers in the city, all of them lone women, and all, as the entry described them, "without husbands." Finally, he was found to be provided with a large, sharp-pointed, double-edged knife in a paper sheath, exactly fitting into a small private pocket of his surtoult.

The mystery of the three murders was now evidently elucidated; but before we go any further we must allude to a proceeding more mysterious and startling than even any incident of the crime themselves. A theory was promulgated some time ago that the last impression made upon the eye of a dying person would be retained there for a certain time after death, and out of this there appears to have arisen a speculation that it might be possible by the aid of

photographic science to obtain this impression from the eye of the corpse and represent it in a visible image. But, whatever be the nature of the theory, we are now told that the experiment was actually tried on one of the eyes of the woman last murdered, and it is declared that a photograph was obtained in profile precisely resembling in its lower portion the profile of Cosimi. We are assured that when this photograph was exhibited the likeness to the prisoner as he sat in the dock was absolutely startling, although the process had been applied and the result obtained five days before the man had been suspected of the murder. We make no comment on this strange tale further than to say that this piece of evidence, though it has found its way into the narrative, was not produced at the trial.—Times.

SEIZING A RAILWAY-TRAIN FOR DEBT.—The singular circumstance of a passenger-train being seized for debt occurred, some days since, on the North of Spain Railway, at the station of Hendaye, near Bayonne. It appears that M. Ernest Gouin and Co. lately obtained a judgment, with immediate execution, against the railway in question for the sum of 100,000 francs. As the representatives of the company in Paris refused payment, and there were no effects that could be attached at the seat of the administration, it was resolved to effect a seizure of a train belonging to the company, as soon as it passed the French frontier. A locomotive and tender, with six passenger-carriages, were accordingly taken in execution, at Hendaye, and shunted into a siding, where they were kept under legal guard. The next day the company's agents in Paris paid the money, and the train was allowed to return to Spain.

WIDTHS OF LONDON STREETS.—The widths of some of the main thoroughfares of London are extremely insignificant. Fleet-street, between the piers of Temple-bar, is 28 ft. 7 in.; opposite Lynn's, the oyster shop, it is 35 ft. 9 in.; and at the corner of Fetter-lane it is 40 ft. 10 in. The narrowest part of Ludgate-hill, which is opposite St. Martin's Church, is only 24 ft. 4 in., and at Farringdon-street, and near St. Paul's, it is only a few inches more than 26 ft. The entrance to Cannon-street by St. Paul's is 30 ft. 6 in. between the kerbs; Cheapeide, at entrance, 39 ft. 2 in.; opposite Bow Church, 31 ft.; the Poultry, 24 ft. 3 in., and near the Mansion House only 22 ft. wide. Indeed, the amount of traffic at this point is enormous, and the danger incurred by pedestrians in attempting to cross the road is painful to witness. Generally, it is best, in making a new thoroughfare, not to exceed 70 ft. in width, which is, we believe, the width of the new Southwark-street, and the width generally adopted by the Metropolitan Board of Works in making their new roadways. Streets wider than this are invariably difficult to cross, and it would be better to open up two streets than to make one inordinately wide. It is, however, a mistake to suppose that police regulations are a sufficient check to accidents; and we agree with Sir Richard Mayne in thinking that their employment should be supplemental.—Building News.

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND.—A somewhat curious case as to the ownership of a "diamond" was settled, a few days ago, in the Small-Debt Court at Stirling. The facts are as follow:—Alexander Allan, wood merchant, St. Ninian's, was four years ago presented by a friend with a "diamond" set on the lid of an ivory box. Some time after George Pitblado, candlemaker, St. Ninian's, and his wife called at Allan's house, and were shown the diamond. In the course of this examination the precious stone fell out of Pitblado's hand, and, according to Allan's story, when the box was picked up the diamond was out of its place, and, though the room was searched, could not be found, nor could it be found afterwards. Two years elapsed, Mrs. Allan and Mrs. Pitblado go a-junting together, and the former discovers what she believes to be her diamond set in a ring on Mrs. Pitblado's finger. The work of challenging commences, and ultimately the Allans get the ring home with them to examine it. Their "diamond" had a "chip" in it, and, taking the stone out of the ring, they discover that it has a "chip" too. They try it in the hole on the lid of the ivory box, and find that it is a perfect fit. The gentleman from whom they got it, and who had it in his possession seventeen years, further declares it is the identical diamond he gave them. Thus convinced, the Allans keep possession of the diamond, and return the empty ring to the Pitblados, who thereupon raise an action to recover possession of the gem. In support of this case, Pitblado proves by witnesses that he was in possession of a diamond pin five years ago; that the stone was taken out of the pin eighteen months ago and set in a ring; that this stone fits the setting in the old pin, and does not fit the hole on the lid of the box belonging to the Allans; and, in explanation of the singular coincidence of his stone having a chip as well as that of the Allans, and of his not being aware of the fact till last year, proves that the stone was so set in the pin that this flaw could not be noticed until it was taken out, and further proves, by the evidence of an Edinburgh jeweller, that there is a sort of raised setting in the head of the pin to suit this very "chip" in the stone. The Allans, in addition to the evidence above stated, prove by other jewellers that the stone perfectly fits the hole in the lid of their ivory box; and the jeweller who transferred the stone from the pin to the ring declares that the diamond was loose in the pin-setting when he first saw it, and seemed as if it had been fixed by hands other than those of a tradesman. In further complication of the case, Pitblado totally denied that the diamond was missed out of the box on the evening of his visit to the Allans, and declared that neither he nor his wife heard a word of the story till the Allans saw Mrs. Pitblado's diamond-ring. Out of these and many similar contradictions in this singular case, Mr. Sheriff Scone saw his way to the decision that the diamond belonged to Pitblado, the purser in the case.

LAW AND CRIME.

Two or three weeks since we recorded an order of Mr. Justice Willes, in a case "Deere v. Law," upon a question affecting the privileges of the City of London Sheriffs' Court. It may be as well to recapitulate that, by the City Small-Debt Act, exclusive jurisdiction was practically given to this court in cases of debt under £20, in which defendants had been employed in the City. The effect of the clause was to deprive the plaintiff of costs on his recovery of a judgment in a superior court. The County Courts Amendment Act came into operation a few days later, and it was suggested that this superseded the local statute. Mr. Justice Willes made an order which left it open to the defendant to take the authoritative opinion of the Judges *in banc*. More recently, Mr. Commissioner Kerr, the Judge of the City court, has had his attention directed to the supposed conflict of the two statutes. In a case before him, in which a plaintiff had obtained a judgment summons, and execution thereon, against a defendant formerly employed in the City, his Honour the Commissioner warned the plaintiff as to the grave doubt entertained upon the question of the jurisdiction of the Court, and cautioned him that the execution must be put in force at the plaintiff's own risk. This is certainly a novel and scarcely a dignified course to be adopted by any established Court. In certain cases, truly, where an order is necessarily granted on an *ex parte* statement of facts (as for the arrest of an absconding debtor, or for leave to proceed against a defendant who eludes service of process), the plaintiff certainly takes an order at his own peril. But where the question is one affecting the power and jurisdiction of the Court making the order, it is quite a different matter. This question is one of grave public importance, especially to the municipal and legal authorities of London. It is surely scarcely fair to cast the burden of contesting a legal question affecting civic privileges and powers upon the plaintiff in a case of a bad small debt. Surely in such a matter the City should itself interfere to support its own officers, or to bear the penalty of their errors in construction of a statute which puzzles and "staggers" even such an astute judge as Mr. Justice Willes.

Eli Payne, of Skinner-street, Bishopsgate-street Without, broker, was charged with illegal excess in his charges upon levying a distress. The case exhibited great rascality upon the broker's part. He had been employed to distrain for £7 upon the goods of the tenant of a shop in which were sold greens and oysters. The debtor was ill, and the broker took full advantage of this circumstance. He devoured the stock of oysters, sold the vegetables in the shop, and appropriated the proceeds. He swept off the goods from the house, sold them by auction, charged exorbitantly, and never even paid the landlord a farthing, setting him at defiance, after having received a sum of £9—quite sufficient to pay the rent and all legal charges. Mr. Partridge, the magistrate at the Thames Police Court, fined Payne £21, being treble the amount of the distress, and ordered him to be imprisoned until payment. The case can scarcely be made too public. Perhaps even many of the legal profession are unaware of the stringent provisions of "The Brokers' Act," which gives summary jurisdiction in such cases. Attorneys, as a rule, do not care to have much to do with brokers or distresses. In practice solicitors frequently refuse to undertake the responsibility of distraining for rent as being out of the sphere of their legitimate business. The authority given by law is commonly abused in cases of distress, and most especially among the poorest class. Rents are not unfrequently committed to brokers for collection by landlords of wretched tenements who are not above sharing with the brokers the plunder in

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